

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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Volume 2, No. 168 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2004

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is its fifth
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PHOTOS BY LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Alfredo Zendizjans mans his machine gun and radios in an "all clear" Wednesday outside the police station in Saba al Boor, Iraq. Zendizjans, along with Pfc. Joe Strauch, right, are members of the 10th Mountain Division's 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, which "is one of the most deployed units in the Army," according to Lt. Col. John Spizser.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Branch Davidians: A 1968 Chevrolet Camaro once owned by former Branch Davidian leader David Koresh is expected to fetch up to \$60,000 at auction this weekend in Texas.

The black two-door Camaro was parked at the Davidian compound near Waco during a 51-day siege by federal agents in 1993 that ended with Koresh and nearly 80 followers dying. Auctioneer Daniel Kruse said he hopes a museum or individual who appreciates the car's historical significance buys it.

R.I. nightclub fire: Lawyers for those charged in connection with a nightclub fire that killed 100 people were given on Friday boxes of evidence the state has compiled as it prepares to prosecute their clients.

The evidence exchange is part of an ongoing sharing of materials in the criminal case against nightclub owners Jeffrey and Michael Derdarian and Daniel Biechle, the former tour manager of the band that was playing at The Station the night of the blaze.

Lawyers for the Derdarians, Biechle and the state appeared in Superior Court Friday to receive the evidence, and discuss testing the state wants to perform on materials seized from the club.

Genesis space data: The first solar-wind samples recovered from the crashed Genesis space capsule have been sent to researchers in California.

Three years after it was launched, Genesis returned to Earth on Sept. 8, but it crashed into the western Utah desert when its parachutes failed to deploy.

NASA scientists at Michael Army Air Field at Dugway Proving Ground have been extracting samples plumes from the smashed capsule, hoping to recover enough material for substantive study.

Rowland aide indicted: A one-time top aide to former Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland and a major state construction contractor were indicted on charges they ran a criminal organization, the governor's office, trading contracts for gold coins, expensive meals and limousine trips.

Former co-chief of staff Peter N. Ellet and contractor William Tomasso were due in federal court Friday. The 15-count indictment handed down Thursday accuses them of conspiring to steer state contracts from 1997 to 2003. The racketeering and several other charges each carry up to 20 years in prison.

Tomasso is accused of giving Ellet more than \$1 million worth of gold, cash, trips, meals and vacations. In return, Ellet allegedly helped steer tens of millions of dollars in contracts to Tomasso and his companies.

Hacking murder case: The Utah man accused of killing his wife while she slept and dumping her body in the trash waived a preliminary hearing Thursday, clearing the way for his murder trial.

By giving up the hearing, Mark Hacking essentially is acknowledging that the state has enough evidence against him to proceed with a murder trial.

"Yes, your honor," Hacking told Judge William Barrett when asked if he understood what it meant to waive the hearing.

Those were the only three words Hacking said during the short hearing, attended by most of his family members and his wife's father.

There have been no plea negotiations, prosecutor Robert Stott said.



Illinois Statehouse shooting: Springfield Police Sgt. Steve Swetland questions a handcuffed Derek W. Potts on Monday, about 40 minutes after the killing of a guard at the Illinois state Capitol in Springfield. Potts was stopped in the parking lot of a restaurant and was released, only to be captured and arrested 17 hours later and charged with the murder of William Wozniak at the state Capitol. Department heads said the officers did not know Potts was wanted in the Capitol shooting, and he apparently did not have the shotgun used in the killing or the silver, two-door foreign car linked to the shooter.

World

Canada-U.S. defense partnership: Canada's possible entry into the U.S. missile-defense program still hinges on talks with the United States, Defense Minister Bill Graham said Thursday.

But he offered an indication of which way Canada is leaning by defending the project and taking a swipe at suggestions it would lead to weapons in space.

"It's an important program in the context of Canada-U.S. relations," he said. "I'm continuing these negotiations with that attitude — we're partners for the defense of North America and I think we must remain partners."

The United States is developing a shield against ballistic missiles to guard against potential threats from countries like North Korea. U.S. officials want allies like Britain, Canada, Japan and Australia involved in the project.

Turkey EU membership: The speaker of Turkey's parliament on Friday called an emergency session to pass legal reforms meant to help the country's chances of starting membership talks with the European Union.

The decision for the session, set for Sunday, was made a day after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged in Brussels, Belgium, that parliament would pass the key reform package. The proposals were withdrawn last week after lawmakers in his party insisted on including a law criminalizing adultery.

North Korea missiles: North Korea's move to boost troop numbers around missile sites is probably a military exercise rather than preparation for a launch, a top Japanese official said Friday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda also said Japan-North Korea talks scheduled for Saturday in Beijing would go ahead as planned.

"There are many things needed to launch a missile, but so far we judge that the situation there now is not of that sort," Hosoda told reporters. "We think this is something more like an exercise."

Japan convened an emergency meeting on Thursday after saying it had information

suggesting North Korea might be preparing to test fire a short-range missile.

Mideast conflict: Palestinian militants fired two mortars at a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip on Friday, killing a 24-year Israeli-American woman and enflaming settler anger at Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The death in the southern Gaza settlement of Neve Dekalim was likely to further mobilize opposition to Sharon's plan to withdraw from Gaza in 2005.

The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility. In response to the mortar fire, Israeli tanks opened fire on the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis, the army said. Palestinian witnesses said two Palestinians, a 42-year-old man and a 4-year-old boy, were wounded.

Catholic church exodus: Austrians disgusted by the discovery of a large cache of child pornography at a seminary and allegations that a prominent priest molested youths are leaving the Roman Catholic church in significant numbers, church leaders said Friday.

Applications to withdraw from parishes in the Archdiocese of Vienna were up 36 percent in July and shot up another 40 percent in August, the daily Die Presse reported, citing figures from Vienna City Hall. The Vienna archdiocese said 10,709 people had left as of Aug. 31. Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, Austria's top churchman, said he couldn't blame people for wanting out after a summer of scandal triggered by the discovery of up to 40,000 lurid images — including child pornography — on computers at a seminary in the diocese of St. Poelten.

Russian school siege: Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov reportedly denied his involvement in the Russian school hostage-taking in a statement released Friday and said another rebel chief, Shamil Basayev, should stand behind staging it.

In a statement posted on a rebel Web site, Maskhadov, who was elected president of Chechnya in 1997 after its won de-facto independence in the first 1994-96 war, said he couldn't immediately bring Basayev to justice because of war but pledged to do it once the hostilities end.

Stories and photos from wire services

Officials: More troops will be needed in Iraq

Rumsfeld quashes rumors of draft to boost numbers

BY THOMAS E. RICKS
AND JOSH WHITE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — U.S. and foreign officials say it is increasingly clear that more armed forces will be needed in Iraq in the coming months to secure the nation's first democratic elections, to protect against the possibility of an insurgent offensive during Ramadan and to allow U.S. commanders to launch a major counteroffensive to quell the rebellion in the Sunni Triangle.

The question of who will provide those troops, however, is still unanswered. Army Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. troops in the Middle East, told reporters on Capitol Hill on Wednesday that more forces would be needed, saying he prefers the bulk of the new forces come from the newly trained Iraqi security forces and from other nations instead of from a significant increase in U.S. troops.

"I think we will need more troops than we currently have to secure the elections process in Iraq that will probably take place in the end of January," Abizaid said after a closed-door briefing with legislators about the current state of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. But, he added, "it is our belief that those troops will be Iraqi troops." Also, he said, there may be more international troops.

So, Abizaid concluded, "I don't foresee a need for more American troops, but we can't discount it." There currently are 135,000 U.S. servicemen in Iraq.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld testified Tuesday before the Senate Armed Services Committee that he expects Iraq to become a more violent place as elections approach, and said Abizaid will be getting more troops.

Rumsfeld, however, also expects the forces to come largely in the form of new Iraqi security recruits. But he said that more U.S. troops could be sent if combatant commanders request them.

"In the event Gen. Abizaid decides he needs more troops to assist in the elections, like he has, for example, in Afghanistan, he'll ask, and he'll get it," Rumsfeld said.

However, Rumsfeld was contradicted by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

"We're going to have an election that is free and open and that has to be open to all citizens. It's got to be our best effort to get it into troubled areas as well. Armitage told a House committee Friday when asked about Rumsfeld's statement.

Pentagon staff officers are working hard to develop contingency plans for increasing the U.S. force in Iraq if a decision is made to do that, said an Army official at the Pentagon.

"They're coming up with courses of actions and options to meet the requirement," this official said. No formal request has yet arrived from Abizaid, he said, but "prudent military planning" is under way.

The Army officer said he

thought it was likely that Marines in western Iraq on a seven-month tour would be extended. A Marine spokesperson said she hadn't received any indication that such an extension would occur.

Rumsfeld again publicly knocked down persistent rumors that the Bush administration is considering a reinstatement of the draft to boost the military's numbers.

"I'm not supposed to get in politics, but it is absolutely false that anyone in this administration is considering reinstating the draft," Rumsfeld said, his voice rising. "That is nonsense."

But a Pentagon-appointed panel of outside experts has concluded in a new study that the military does not have enough forces to sustain current and anticipated stability operations, the New York Times reported Friday.

Portions of the study, not yet released, were read into the public record Thursday by Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, a leader of Democrats who want to expand the size of the military. During testimony by Rumsfeld and his top commanders, Reed said he found the study "provocative and startling."

Rumsfeld called it an "excellent piece of work" and that he had ordered briefings on its findings for senior military and civilian officials, but cautioned that the section read by Reed was not a comprehensive synopsis, the Times reported.

Reed said the Defense Science Board study found "inadequate total numbers of U.S. troops" and "a lack of long-term endurance."



Two U.S. soldiers and an Iraqi soldier investigate near the Italian Embassy in Baghdad after mortars exploded on Friday. Three Iraqi were slightly wounded in the attack.

1 hostages seized; 4 killed in Baghdad

BY FISNIK ABRASHI
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Kidnappers seized six Egyptians and four Iraqis working for the country's mobile phone company in two separate incidents, authorities said Friday, even as British Muslim leaders announced plans to send negotiators to Baghdad in hopes of winning the release of hostage Kenneth Bigley.

Gunnmen abducted two of the Egyptians in a bold raid Thursday on the firm's Baghdad office — the latest in a string of kidnappings in the capital targeting engineers working to repair Iraq's infrastructure in hopes of undermining the U.S.-allied interim government. Eight other company employees were snatched outside of Baghdad the previous day.

Meanwhile, insurgents fired a rocket on a busy Baghdad thoroughfare, killing four people and wounding 14 Iraqis, the military said in a statement. Blood stains could be seen on the street afterward, footage from Associated Press Television news showed.

The worsening security situation prompted one U.S. official to warn that Saddam Hussein's trial on war crimes charges would likely not take place any time soon. The official, who asked not to be named, also dismissed allegations that the war crimes tribunal's ousted director that interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi had taken over the court and was pushing for "show trials" to boost his popularity ahead of January elections.

The fresh spate of kidnappings came amid the hostage drama surrounding a civil engineer, Kenneth Bigley. The militants have threatened to kill the 62-year-old Briton next unless Iraqi women are freed from prison.

Tawhid and Jihad, led by Jordanian terrorist mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has already beheaded two Americans who were kidnapped along with Bigley from their Baghdad home.

The Muslim Council of Britain said it was sending David Abdulah and Musharraf Hashim, whom it described as "well-respected figures in the British

Muslim community" to Baghdad for talks to try to win Bigley's freedom. The council, an umbrella group of British Muslim organizations, said it would leave for Baghdad "very shortly," but did not specify when.

Two of the Egyptians were kidnapped when gunmen stormed into the office of the Iraqia mobile phone company in Baghdad's upscale Harthiya neighborhood Thursday night, said Iraqi Interior Ministry official Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman.

The kidnappers hustled the two communications engineers into a black BMW and drove them away, he said. Another ministry official said the gunmen tied up guards at the office.

The two were escorted by Motorola but were working from Iraqia, said Farouq Mabrouk, an Egyptian Embassy official.

Four more Egyptian engineers and four Iraqis were kidnapped Wednesday while working outside of Baghdad, Mabrouk said. One of the four Iraqis has been released, he said, without offering details.

The six Egyptians were working for Orascom, the parent company for Iraqia, according to a statement from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. The statement did not mention the Iraqis.

The ministry said it was exerting "intensive" efforts to secure the release of the Egyptians.

More than 140 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq and at least 26 of them have been killed by their captors.

With kidnappings, car bombings and shootings escalating — and several cities effectively under insurgent control — U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld suggested Thursday that parts of Iraq might have to be excluded from the elections.

A senior State Department official disputed the statement Friday.

"We're going to have an election that is free and open and that has to be open to all citizens," Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told a House of Representatives committee in Washington. "It's got to be our best effort to get it into troubled areas as well."

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, Sept. 23, 2004, 1,039 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 789 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 65 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 901 U.S. military members have died — 680 as a result of hostile action and 221 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A Marine was killed Wednesday in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense and the North Dakota National Guard:

■ Army Sgt. Brandon E. Adams, 22, Hollidaysburg, Pa., died Sunday at Walter Reed Army

Medical Center in Washington, D.C., of injuries sustained Feb. 16 when a grenade exploded as he was clearing a house in Fallujah, Iraq, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

■ Marine Sgt. Foster L. Harrington, 31, Fort Worth, Texas, killed Monday in Iraq's Anbar province, assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th Marine Division, Mobile, Ala.

■ Army Pfc. Adam J. Harris, 21, Abilene, Texas, killed Wednesday when he was shot by a sniper, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Lance J. Koenig, 33, Fargo, N.D., killed Wednesday near Tikrit, Iraq, when the explosive he was investigating went off, assigned to Company B of the North Dakota Guard's 141st Engineer Combat Battalion.

■ Marine Sgt. Benjamin K. Smith, 24, Carterville, Ill., killed Wednesday in Iraq's Anbar province, assigned to 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

■ Army Pfc. Nathan E. Stahl, 20, Highland, Ind., killed Tuesday by an explosive in Iraq, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.



PHOTOS BY LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Above: A member of the 10th Mountain Division's Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment waits atop an armored Humvee as his colleagues talk to townspeople in Saba al Boor, Iraq, a small rural town in the vicinity of Baghdad International Airport. Left: Soldiers from Company C investigate the spot of a mysterious explosion at the town's police station the day before.

10th Mountain on yet another deployment

Almost half of division's soldiers are veterans of Afghanistan, Iraq or both

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — When 21-year-old Spc. Alfredo Zendizias first stepped inside the gate of the fabled 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y., in 2001, little did he know that the division would soon become famous as one the Army's most-deployed units.

In fact, his unit in particular, Company C of the 10th Mountain Division's 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, "is one of the most deployed units in the Army," according to Lt. Col. John Spitzer, battalion commander.

After Sept. 11, 2001, elements of the 10th Mountain were deployed to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; Uzbekistan; Afghanistan for Operation Anaconda; Djibouti in the Horn of Africa; and now Iraq — for a full year, Spitzer said Wednesday.

Zendizias said he knew, after the Sept. 11 attack — he was in basic training at the time — that deployments would follow, no matter which unit he ended up in.

"I just didn't expect to be out this often," said the young soldier, whose favorite deployment to date has been Africa. "Maybe once."

By the time they return home after a year in Iraq, some 10th Mountain soldiers "will have been deployed for more than 26 months out of the past 45 months," said Spitzer, whose battalion is nicknamed the Polar Bears.

"We have lots of (battle-) scarred soldiers in this brigade," said 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander Col. Mark Milley, a Princeton-educated Ranger and former Special Forces infantryman.

In fact, between 40 percent and 50 percent of the 10th Mountain soldiers who are now here at Camp Victory were either in Afghanistan, Iraq, or both, Milley said. So Zendizias, who is from Norwalk, Calif., is not alone.



Saba al Boor, the largest town in territory patrolled by Company C, is known as a quiet, very rural, American-friendly town.

The 2nd BCT is responsible for 700 square miles of the western "hinterlands" of Baghdad, Spitzer said.

The soldiers "do full spectrum operations, from constant patrolling... to helping recruit and mentor" the new Iraq National Police force, Milley said Wednesday.

The brigade also works with local officials on civil affairs projects such as health care, irrigation systems and potable water and sewage disposal, he said.

Some of the 10th Mountain's soldiers are not in Iraq by choice, such as Spc. Billy Weatherall, a 23-year-old from Bossier City, La. He was only three days from finishing his Army contract and going to col-

lege when he got the news on May 12 that he had been extended in order to be sent to Iraq for a year.

Weatherall, who said he joined the military "out of family tradition," including both grandfathers in the Air Force and a father in the Marines, had been in the Army for four years and four months and had already done three deployments: Aberdeen, Uzbekistan and Anaconda. Now he is in Iraq, where the unit arrived in mid-July after spending a month in Kuwait. In total, he has been deployed for one year and nine months, he said.

Weatherall said he doesn't mind deployments: "... But I didn't realize I'd be deployed four times."

"The hardest part is not being able to call my family, or not getting time off to goof around with my friends."

Spc. Alfredo Zendizias
10th Mountain Division

Like his company mate Zendizias, Weatherall liked his stint in Africa the best.

"It was a fantastic deployment," he said while grabbing a taco-and-cheese dinner at the chow hall after a Wednesday patrol. "We got to see so much of the other cultures."

The least favorite, for both men, was Operation Anaconda, in Afghanistan.

"Just the terrain was so rough," never mind the fighting, Zendizias said while chewing a corn dog and some fried chicken.

Iraq isn't too bad, both men said.

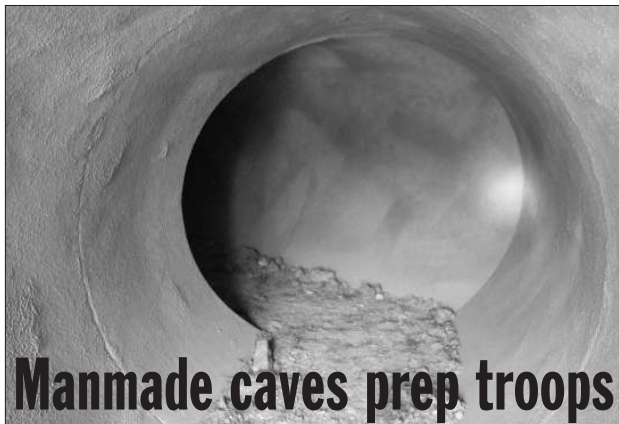
"The hardest part is not being able to call my family, or not getting time off to goof around with my friends," Zendizias said.

In his precious spare time, Weatherall said, he "lifts weights and goes to church." "I think (God) is looking over our shoulders because he knows what we are doing is right," the devout Baptist said.

Weatherall said he still intends to go to college when his extension finally ends. But he doesn't want to cut all his Army ties — he wants to join his local National Guard unit.

"I want to be with my buddies," he said. Zendizias said he intends to stay in the Army. His dream assignment is Fort Lewis, Wash., working with the New Yorker Brigade.

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The opening of the Schwend cave gives the most natural light. The cave is one of four manmade caves at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany. The caves are up to 1,000 feet long and offer many twists and turns for soldiers to practice their skills.

Special setup at Hohenfels helps soldiers train for deployments to mountainous regions

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

HOHENFELS, Germany — Nature takes thousands, even millions, of years to form caves. At the Army's Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels recently, it took just four months.

The center's staff constructed four caves up to 100 feet long. Planning began in June, and construction on all four caves was complete by Sept. 15.

The center continuously works to improve its training facilities. That includes its urban warfare training villages, where soldier and civilian role-players from the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment at Hohenfels buy furniture and other items at garage sales and flea markets to add to the authenticity, said Lt. Col. Darin Blancett, deputy operations officer for CMTC Command Group.

While the urban training sites replicate villages in theaters such as Afghanistan, operating in an urban environment is not the only concern.

"USAREUR has been deployed to locations like [Afghanistan], and [U.S. Army Europe commander] Gen. [B.B.] Bell directed that we replicate these environments — not specifically for Operation Enduring Freedom, but for any location where soldiers may need cave-clearing skills," Blancett said.

Although the center based its caves somewhat on the model of manmade caves at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., the caves in Hohenfels are much more elaborate. The design had to be tweaked to match the terrain and climate of Hohenfels.

At a cost of \$541,000, the caves were made with pieces of 5-inch-thick concrete sewage pipe that range in diameter from about 5 feet to 6 feet, accord-



The Combat Maneuver Training Center's Schwend cave sits in a former rock quarry in the massive training area in Hohenfels. Metal gates on the entrance keep wildlife out of the caves. To the left of the entrance in the background is one of many escape hatches for soldiers to leave the caves in case of an emergency.

ing to Knut Ogaard, master planner for the center who came up with the original design of the caves.

"The insides of the caves were painted in earth tones with a stucco effect that creates a texture similar to natural cave walls, Blancett said.

Numerous escape hatches with manhole covers were built into the caves to provide easy exit access for soldiers in case of an emergency, Ogaard said.

The caves twist and turn with several openings inside the caves that lead to dead ends. "We put in dividers, because natural caves are not a straight shot; you have to maneuver around in them," Ogaard said. "The dividers help with the training because someone could be hiding behind one of them."

Opposing forces will likely be hiding in the caves and stockpiling weapons that units must find as part of the cave-clearing training, Blancett said.

A company from the 173rd Airborne used the caves for training on Monday, said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Volk, an observer-controller from the training area.

"They can use any means available to provide light in the cave," Volk said. "Some will use flashlights, others use [night-vision goggles]. They may want to limit the number of flashlights they use in case an enemy is waiting for them inside the cave."

Volk added that observing the trainees in the cave is no more difficult than observing their training in the buildings and on the streets of the mock villages.

"One observer will already be in the cave, and another follows the soldiers in to observe how they enter the cave," Volk said.

For units such as the 173rd Airborne Brigade, which deploys to Afghanistan next spring, the manmade caves in the training area could save lives.

"It is better that they practice clearing a cave here under these conditions than encounter it for the first time downrange," Blancett said.

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3 more SEALs face charges of prisoner abuse

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Three more sailors with Naval Special Warfare Command face charges for allegedly abusing prisoners in Iraq, bringing to seven the number of seamen facing disciplinary action in the incident.

Six of the seven sailors are members of the service's elite special forces. Four sailors were charged three weeks ago, said Cmdr. Jeff Bender, spokesman for the Naval Special Warfare Command in San Diego.

None of the sailors has been identified publicly. The three sailors charged Friday are charged with more serious crimes than the previous four. Their charges include failure to report abuse to superior authorities, dereliction of duty, maltreatment of detainees, assault, aggravated assault with intent to cause death or serious bodily harm, conduct unbecoming, obstruction of justice and assault with a deadly weapon.

The previous four were charged with failure to report maltreatment of detainees to proper authorities, maltreatment of detainees, making false official statements to investigators, assault and aggravated assault, and solicitation to commit an offense.

None is jailed, Bender said. The allegations against all seven surfaced when another SEAL, who no longer is part of the Navy's special forces command and who hasn't faced unrelated disciplinary action, told officials investigating his case that he witnessed the abuse of detainees between October 2003 and April 2004, Bender said.

Bender said he could not disclose the nature of the allegations against the one SEAL who provided information to investigators, but said it has nothing to do with prisoner abuse.

Nor can he disclose details about the abuse incident or where in Iraq the alleged abuse took place. However, it did not occur at the infamous Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, which has been the source of much of the abuse scandal surrounding the Army and which led to a series of investigations by high-level defense, congressional and former defense officials.

No dates for any disciplinary hearings have set for any of the seven sailors, Bender said. The hearings are likely to take place in San Diego, where the SEALs are based, he said.

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DOD restores Web site access for overseas voters

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has restored access to a Web site that assists soldiers and other Americans living overseas in voting, after receiving complaints that its security measures were preventing legitimate voters from using it.

The site, www.fvap.gov, had been closed to users of certain Internet service providers, because some hackers were using those providers to launch attacks on U.S. government sites, military officials said.

But that had the effect of restricting legitimate traffic from those providers, as well. The move prompted criticism from overseas voter advocates and a few Democratic members of Congress, who said the security interfered with the voting rights of Americans overseas. In a statement, the Pentagon said the changes will open the Web site, run by the Foreign Voting Assistance Program, to most, but not all, users. The site assists U.S. citizens overseas in casting absentee ballots.

"It is always a challenge to balance access with the required security on Department of Defense systems," said Charles S. Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Some U.S. government agencies have previously blocked access to their Web sites from Internet providers, and even entire countries, when hacking attempts have been detected.

Brett Riersson, a Hong Kong-based Democrat who wrote to the Pentagon about the problem, said he tracked requests from users of at least 27 countries to 25 countries who have been denied access to information from the Pentagon-run site.

GAO frowns on drop in Reserve retirement age

Agency cites costs, retention

Advocates for lowering the age-60 threshold for when Reserve retirement benefits begin will find little to cheer about in a new report from the Government Accountability Office.

With numerous bills before Congress to drop the Reserve retirement age to 55 or younger, lawmakers in 2002 directed GAO to review Reserve retirement, assess the need for change, and weigh the costs of granting annuities earlier against the benefits of retaining more reservists.

The report, released this month, concludes that the Department of Defense doesn't collect attrition data in a way to determine whether the services are keeping

enough Reserve and National Guard members for 20 years or more. DOD also lacks data to show whether offering earlier annuities would even improve personnel retention rates.

Yet the report goes on to give five reasons for Congress to move cautiously, or perhaps not at all, to change Reserve retirement. They are:

Cost: The retirement fund expense to lower the age at which Reserve annuities start would range from a low of more than \$5 billion over 10 years to a high of more than \$34 billion. The totals include the cost of providing, at age 55 or earlier, both annuities and health benefits.

Too few gain: Because only one of four reservists serves long enough to retire, a change in law to start annuities earlier won't benefit most Reservists who served or are now deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. On the

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

other hand, it would raise the value of retirement for many reservists who might not ever deploy in the war on terrorism. Only a third of Reserve component personnel have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001.

Better alternatives: The services have more efficient ways to raise compensation of deployed reservists. They include hazardous duty pay, family separation allowances and a new, still unused special allowance for military personnel who endure frequent or long deployments.

Rebalancing skills: The Department of Defense is shifting skills

previously concentrated in the Reserve and National Guard to active-duty forces. This should relieve operational stress on high-demand Reserve occupations and soften the argument for changing Reserve retirement.

Unintended effects: Changing Reserve retirement could have unintended negative consequences for keeping active-duty forces. For example, says GAO, if Reserve retirement is changed to provide immediate annuities after 20 years of service, some personnel who planned to remain on active duty until retirement might leave and serve their remaining time in a Reserve component.

No Reserve retirement changes made it into either the House or Senate version of the 2005 defense authorization bill, now in final negotiations.

To qualify for an annuity at age 60, reservists must have at least 20 years of creditable service,

which means a minimum of 50 retirement points earned each year from monthly drills, annual training or mobilization. The more points earned, the higher the annuity.

In fiscal 1992, reservists earned an average 64 retirement points. By fiscal 2001, that average was up to 138. Despite a higher pace of deployments, GAO said, Reserve retention rates have remained relatively stable since 1991, the first Persian Gulf War.

In a small nod to advocates for change, GAO noted that the age-60 threshold was set in 1948 when federal civilian employees had to work until 60 to qualify for retirement. In 1967, the minimum federal civilian retirement age was lowered to 55 for employees with 30 or more years of federal service.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 211111, Centerville, Va 20120-1111, e-mail milupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

China strikes up the band for U.S. Navy

A Chinese navy band welcomes the warship USS Cushing into Qingdao, in east China's Shandong province, on Friday. The visit is the seventh by the U.S. Navy to Qingdao. The Cushing, carrying 351 Navy personnel and officials, will stay there for four days.

AP



Fort Benning soldiers get refund from insurance vendor

BY DICK PETTYS
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Many of the young soldiers at Fort Benning thought they were purchasing an investment product after they listened to the agent's spiel, but they really were buying term life insurance at less-than-bargain rates.

Now some who bought the policies in 2002 and 2003 at the Army infantry training base in west Georgia will see refunds as a result of a state investigation into whether agents from some companies misled the young recruits.

And the probe has expanded to other Georgia military bases where similar complaints have been raised, state insurance commissioner John Oxendine said Thursday.

The official, John Oxendine, said the situation reminds him of one aimed at senior citizens years ago in which some insurance

agents were offering retirement investment help to older Americans while actually just selling "garbage life insurance policies."

"This is pretty much the same approach," he said, "except they're going after 19-year-old kids."

"Marketing an insurance product as an investment is clearly inappropriate and does violate Georgia law. So that's kind of what we're looking at," he added.

Oxendine said it appears from his initial findings that some agents gained access to Fort Benning either through a vendor's pass or through friends, and then advertised financial planning, consulting or investment services while actually selling overpriced term life policies.

Some of the soldiers who bought the policies — generally through payroll deductions of \$100 a month — believed they were investing "in some kind of bank or in-

vestment program or mutual fund" that would pay dividends, not realizing they were purchasing an insurance product, Oxendine said.

"The people we talked to honestly thought they were making an investment. They thought it was like putting money in a bank," he said. "They said insurance was mentioned, but not really talked about. All they [the agents] talked about was 'investment, investment, investment.'"

Fort Benning spokesman Rich McDowell said military officials "take what happened very seriously" and said vendors must now secure "all sorts of clearances" before being permitted on base.

One company that pushed policies at Fort Benning — American Amicable Life Insurance Co. of Waco, Texas — is offering refunds, company spokesman Mark Palmer said.

After The New York Times reported in July on the policy sales, American Amica-

ble launched an internal probe and found that four insurance agents violated company and Department of Defense rules by approaching groups of soldiers in basic training, Palmer said.

Three of the agents have been fired and one resigned, he said. The company hasn't found similar instances at other bases, he said.

Palmer said \$75 of the premium that soldiers paid for the product went to a term life insurance policy and \$25 to an annuity rider guaranteed to give them a 4 percent return on investment but currently paying 6.5 percent.

Oxendine said he also is investigating policies sold by Trans World Assurance of San Mateo, Calif., and the Madison National Life Insurance Co. of Middleton, Wis. Officials are probing insurance marketing complaints at four other Georgia military installations: Fort Stewart, Fort Gordon, Hunter Army Field and King's Bay Naval Station.

Rumsfeld: Time line for BRAC must remain

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The two Pentagon plans of repositioning overseas troops to U.S. bases and the next round of likely base closures go hand-in-hand and must stay on the current time line in order for either to work, Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday during a congressional hearing.

When asked by Sen. John Warner, R-Va., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, whether he'd support a delay, Rumsfeld said: "It would be most unfortunate for any delay in BRAC, which would delay forces being returned to the United States," Rumsfeld said of the Base Realignment and Closure process.

Warner concurred, saying during his opening remarks that it is "imperative that we stay on that same timetable."

Democratic presidential candidate John

Kerry has said he would delay the base closure process if elected.

"I've called for it to stop the BRAC [Base Realignment And Closure] process temporarily. I want to make certain that we are re-evaluating precisely what America's military needs are in this new structure," Kerry told Stripes on Aug. 6.

Last month, President Bush announced a broad plan to shift, over the next 10 years, some 70,000 troops and 100,000 family members and civilian employees from overseas to stateside installations. With that repositioning, the military intends to shut down 200, or some 35 percent, of its overseas installations and facilities, from major bases to a plot of land with a radio antenna on it, Rumsfeld said.

The senators were given detailed plans of the Pentagon's three-year plan, listing several of options of troop movements, plans that contained exact numbers of troops to be re-

turned and where Pentagon officials would like to place them. The plans are classified.

Returning troops will need a place to go, Rumsfeld said, stressing the importance of keeping the BRAC process on schedule so that it does not delay the posturing plans.

Instead of maintaining Cold War-era bases in Western European countries, the military wants to shift to "warm bases," for example, in cooperative Middle East countries — erecting bare-bones facilities where troops can deploy to fight contingencies and then leave when no longer needed, he said. More rudimentary facilities can be built in African countries, which also can be used for training.



Rumsfeld

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., and others expressed concerns of reducing U.S. forces in South Korea by about 12,500. "When North Korea ... seems to be in an aggressive and unpredictable situation, why would we not have those concerns?" Lieberman asked Army Gen. Leon LaPorte, commander of U.S. Forces Korea.

"Why would we not be worried that we have 12,500 fewer troops on the ground?"

That's because numbers don't equal capability, said LaPorte, who testified at the hearing with fellow combatant commanders Gen. James Jones from European Command, and Adm. Thomas Fargo, Pacific Command. Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also testified.

Not only has the United States boosted its capabilities to defend the peninsula through high-tech equipment, but also some tend to underestimate the effectiveness of the South Korean army, he said.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

Antidote now available

A chemical-attack antidote the government had restricted to U.S. military use will now be made available to state and local emergency workers.

The Food and Drug Administration in April 2003 approved Resacine Skin Decontamination Lotion for the Army's use. That decision also gave the Army control over whether other federal agencies and state and local governments could buy the product.

For over a year, the Army declined to make the lotion available to civilian rescue services, saying more testing was needed.

On Wednesday, manufacturer O'Dell Engineering said the Army had concluded the product was safe for use by emergency responders at all levels of government. It is now available to local police and fire departments as well as federal agencies such as the State Department and the Capitol Police.

NATO countries long have kept stockpiles of the lotion, also

known as RSDL, to treat victims of chemical attacks. The Canadian military developed it several years ago to neutralize mustard gas, sarin and other chemical agents. Emergency responders in Japan acquired it after the 1995 sarin-gas attacks in the Tokyo subway system.

RSDL comes as a lotion-soaked sponge packaged in a foil pouch that can be carried and ripped open to wipe on the skin after a chemical attack, giving first responders a treatment option before soap and water.

General: Guard will fall short of recruiting goal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army National Guard will fall 5,000 soldiers short of its recruiting goal this year, in part because fewer in the active-duty force are switching to part-time service, knowing how frequently Guard units are being dispatched to war zones, the Guard's top general said Thursday.

It will be the first time since 1994 that the Guard has missed its sign-up goal.

Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said in an Associated Press interview that he's concerned by the shortfall but believes it will not be a long-term trend.

"This is something that can't be ignored. I've got to watch it every day. But it's not something that I would say indicates that we're breaking," he said. "But it's not something that I would say indicates that we're breaking. I think it indicates that the recruiting climate has gotten tougher, and that means we need to adjust to a tougher market."

The Guard had set a goal of 56,000 recruits for the budget year ending Sept. 30 but is likely to end up with about 51,000, he said.

Blum cited two main reasons why the Guard is attracting fewer soldiers from the active-duty force — a pool of recruits that in some states accounts for half of the new Guard members in a given year.

One reason is the active-duty Army is prohibiting soldiers already in units in Iraq or Afghanistan — or preparing to deploy there — from leaving the service, even if their enlistment term is

up.

The other reason, Blum said, is that active-duty soldiers know a growing number of Guard units are being sent to Iraq and Afghanistan, so they figure there is little to be gained, in terms of reduced personal risk, by switching from active duty to the Guard.

"If you want to get away from active duty and you don't want to take a chance that you're going to deploy that quickly again, then you probably are going to make a clean break for a while and not join the Guard or Reserve, and so we are suffering," Blum said.

Attracting recruits who have no prior military service, meanwhile, has been made more difficult because many Guard units are spending a year or more abroad and therefore are not available to persuade young people in their communities to join the military, Blum said.

"Our most effective recruiting is word-of-mouth," he said.

"When you have 27 percent of your force deployed overseas, they're not doing much word-of-mouth recruiting."

To respond to the shortfall, Blum said he will increase the number of recruiters and put more effort into targeting young people in high school and college with no military service.

Another key aspect of maintaining Guard strength is what the military calls retention — the Guard members who re-enlist. Blum said the Army Guard is meeting its retention goal this year and finding re-enlistees are higher in units that deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan than those that did not.

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IN THE WORLD

Russia calls for additional terror watch list

BY KIM GAMEL

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Russia took its case for expanding the global war against terrorism to the United Nations, demanding the Security Council draw up a new list of terror suspects who would be subject to extradition.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, whose country has denounced Western countries for granting asylum to Chechen leaders it has linked to violence, said there can be no double standards in defining terrorists.

"Those who slaughtered children in Beslan and hijacked airplanes to attack civilians are creatures of the same breed," he said in a forceful speech to the U.N. General Assembly.

"Harboring terrorists, their enrichment and sponsors undermines the unity and mutual trust of parties to the anti-terrorist front, serves as a justification for their actions and actually encourages them in other countries," he added.

Russia circulated a draft resolu-

tion stressing the need for the 15 member nations to "cooperate fully" in tracking down the perpetrators and organizers of terrorist attacks.

The proposed text also asks the committee monitoring what governments are doing to fight terrorism to consider how to draw up a new list of "individuals, groups and entities involved in or associated with terrorist activities."

The list, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, would be separate from that drawn up after the Sept. 11 attacks, which targets terror suspects linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network or Afghanistan's now deposed Taliban regime.

All 191 U.N. member states are required to impose a travel ban and arms embargo on suspects on that list and freeze their assets.

Russia now wants similar punishments for those on the new list as well as speedy extraditions.

The United States was reviewing the proposal, said Secretary of State Colin Powell, who met with Lavrov for about 30 minutes on Thursday.

British Foreign Secretary Jack



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, and Secretary of State Colin Powell speak during a meeting Thursday at the United Nations. Lavrov asked the U.N. Security Council to draw up a new list of terror suspects to be subject to travel bans and extradition.

Straw supported the initiative and said Britain would "work closely" with Russia on the wording to prevent terrorists from abusing asylum status.

"We cannot let terrorists exploit a protection designed for the persecuted, not the persecutors,"

he said.

But the draft was short on specifics and Straw stressed that neither Britain nor any other European Union nation would return suspects to face the death penalty.

Council diplomats said the resolution was likely to be formally in-

troduced on Friday.

The introduction of the terror resolution comes about three weeks after militants staged a series of attacks in Russia, including the hostage crisis at a school in Beslan that killed more than 330.

German shop hours

BERLIN — Germany's upper house of parliament voted Friday to allow states to decide store hours, the first step toward allowing 24-hour shopping in a country that for years has strictly limited opening hours — a habit critics see as increasingly archaic.

To take effect, the change to the 48-year-old store closing law will still have to be debated and passed by the lower house of parliament. A decision could come before the end of the year.

Hungary land sale

BUDAPEST, Hungary — A penny for your thoughts, and half a penny for your land.

In an effort to lure new residents and ensure the survival of the eastern Hungarian hamlet of Tetelen is offering plots of land for 1 forint (half a US cent) to anyone willing to build a home and settle there within four years.

The town, whose population is just 1,500, has 8.6 acres to sell at the bargain basement price. Officials say more than 40 families could settle on the land.

Ukraine premier hurt

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine's prime minister was slightly injured Friday after being hit with an object during a campaign stop in western Ukraine, police said Friday.

Spokeswoman Hanna Herman said Herman mentioned a "hard object" at Yanukovich, but police said the premier was hit with an egg thrown by a 17-year-old boy.

From The Associated Press

Panic erupts amid efforts for aid, recovery in Haiti

The Associated Press

GONAIVES, Haiti — Survivors who were left with almost nothing after Tropical Storm Jeanne devastated this town buried unclaimed corpses in mud-clogged backyards and attacked aid trucks and even neighbors bringing them food.

"You don't want to make me use this!" one man screamed as he waved a wrench at a woman carrying cauldrons of food to distribute at a church. The volunteers had come from the port of St. Marc to Gonaives, where flooding from the storm killed at least 1,100 people.

Hungry and thirsty survivors — some of whom have lost entire families and everything they own — were losing patience at the slow pace of relief.

Knee-deep mud sucked up animal carcasses and sharp pieces of torn-off zinc roofs, as well as human excrement after the sanitation system was destroyed. Limes have become a hot item in the devastated city of 250,000 because people hold them to their noses to relieve the stench.



A woman, right, caught in a crush to get into a food distribution center, argues with an aid worker on Thursday in Gonaives, Haiti.

Still, some presented opposition when officials tried to continue with the mass burials that began when more than 100 bodies were dumped into a pit at sunset Wednesday.

The U.N. stabilization mission in Haiti put the number of missing at 1,251. Toussaint Kongo-Dou, a spokesman for the mission, said 1,113 bodies had been recovered and nearly 300,000 were homeless in Haiti's northwest province — with the majority of victims in Gonaives.

Outgoing NATO chief bids farewell to Kosovo

The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro — The outgoing commander of NATO forces in southern Europe said Friday a farewell visit to Kosovo's leaders and urged citizens to work together with authorities and peacekeepers to improve security in the tense U.N.-run province.

Adm. Gregory Johnson, who served at NATO's command in Naples, Italy, said that "great progress" was made in Kosovo,

where 18,000 alliance troops are deployed on a peacekeeping mission, known as KFOR.

Earlier this month, Kosovo's peacekeeping force announced its current troop level would be increased by 2,000 troops from Germany, Italy and France to boost security ahead of next month's general election in the province.

Campaigning for the Oct. 23 vote has begun amid threats that Serbs will boycott the ballot, citing lack of security.

Johnson said security in the province, where the majority ethnic Albanians and minority Serbs remain bitterly divided, could not be left only to the peacekeepers.

"It is everybody working together," Johnson said. That way, he added, "we will provide the correct umbrella of security" to create a climate of confidence "where everybody can walk out of the door and walk down the village to the polling booth and feel that they don't have to suffer any kind of retribution ... and I think we're getting there."

IAEA calls for end to N. Korea nuclear plans

BY GEORGE JAHN

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — A 137-nation meeting of the atomic watchdog agency demanded on Friday that North Korea scrap nuclear weapons ambitions and urged it to allow agency inspectors to supervise its return to peaceful activities.

The conference has no authority to enforce its resolutions, and North Korea severed its ties with the agency in 2002.

Still, the document reflected international concern over North Korea's threats to build nuclear weapons and attempts to use that as a bargaining chip at six-party talks designed to wrest concessions from the United States and others.

IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei told the agency's board last week that the nuclear standoff with North Korea posed a "serious challenge" to the global effort to control the spread of atomic weaponry.

ElBaradei said that, with his agency shut out of North Korea since December 2002, it cannot say whether the country has diverted sensitive nuclear material to other nations or groups looking to build a bomb.

IN THE STATES

Congress passes middle-class tax cuts

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With lopsided margins in both houses, Congress gave President Bush his fourth tax cut in four years, extending three popular middle-class tax breaks and reviving some expired business tax incentives just six weeks before the election.

Many Democrats complained during the debate Thursday that majority Republicans who control Congress should have offset the lost revenue to keep the nation's soaring deficits from getting worse.

But in the end large numbers of Democrats, including presidential nominee John Kerry, supported the package, something that Republican tax-cut proponents had counted on occurring with the election only 40 days away.

The \$145.9 billion approved in the House by a 339-65 vote, with 125 Democrats joining 213 Republicans and one independent in voting for the proposal. In the Senate, the measure passed by a 92-3 vote.

While no House Republicans voted

against the tax cuts, the three senators objecting joined two Republicans, Sens. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island and Olympia Snowe of Maine, who joined Sen. Ernest Hollings, a Democrat, in voting "no." All three have been critical of the government's inability to get soaring deficits under control.

"I for one am very reluctant to saddle future generations with the bill for this fiscally ruinous policy," Chafee said in a statement.

Bush, whose campaign was hoping for a high-profile victory on taxes in the closing weeks of the presidential race, praised the congressional votes and said his tax relief was "putting more money into the hands of the American people and helping to grow our economy."

Kerry, the junior Democratic senator from Massachusetts, and his running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, were on the campaign trail and did not vote on the package. But Kerry said in a statement his supported it.

"Millions of American families are being squeezed by the weak Bush economy, fall-

ing incomes and rising health costs," Kerry said, adding that as president he would roll back Bush's tax cuts for the wealthiest families and use the savings to invest in health care and education.

The tax package Congress passed will affect an estimated 94 million Americans, mainly through its provision to extend a broader 10 percent tax bracket, which helps reduce taxes for virtually all taxpayers. The package also keeps the per child tax credit at \$1,000 relief from the so-called marriage penalty.

The package extends the child credit for five years, the marriage penalty relief for four years and the expanded 10 percent tax bracket for six years. All were to have expired Jan. 1.

When added to the tax relief Bush persuaded Congress to pass in 2001, all of the provisions will have the effect of keeping the popular provisions on the books through the rest of the decade.

After 2010 all of the tax cuts are due to expire.

Bush, in the statement released by the White House, said Thursday's congressional

action "brings us one step closer to making the tax relief permanent."

Opponents, however, zeroed in on these proposals as an example of corporate welfare.

With passage of the individual tax measure, Congress has only one major piece of tax legislation pending — a corporate tax bill that would repeat about \$5 billion in tax breaks U.S. exporters receive and replace them with a variety of other corporate tax relief.

Passage of this measure is needed to end penalty tariffs that are being imposed on 1,600 U.S. exports to Europe as long as Congress fails to repeal the current export tax breaks, which the World Trade Organization has ruled represent violate global trade rules. However, there are big differences between the versions of the bill passed by the House and Senate.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley on Thursday called on the White House to honor its commitment to get actively involved in lobbying Congress to pass the corporate tax measure now that the individual tax package has been approved.

FDA mulls stronger antidepressant warnings for kids

BY DIETRA HENDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration "within a few days" will decide on a stronger warning for antidepressants, a top official told Congress.

The agency is likely to follow recommendations of federal advisers who want the most strident warnings to highlight links between the drugs and increased suicidal thoughts and actions of children.

"We take this advice very seriously," said Dr. Robert Temple, director of the Office of Medical Policy within the agency's Center for Drug Evaluation and Policy, on Thursday.

Temple spoke after an often contentious hearing on the issue in a subcommittee of the House of Representatives, but would not pinpoint a date for agency action.

"We've still got to write this stuff," he said.

Some grieving parents who attended the hearing were heartened by Temple's testimony that an agency decision is expected "within a few days."

Tom Woodward recommended that federal advisers demand the strongest warnings in his testimony last week.

"I think it's long overdue," said Woodward, who blames his 17-year-old daughter's death on an antidepressant she took for just seven days. "I think the senior leadership of the FDA has dragged their feet on this issue for too long."

Testifying before the subcommittee, Temple said patients also have to receive information guides with every prescription on how to balance the risk of suicide with

the benefits of treating depression.

Also Thursday, a government epidemiologist said his bosses asked him to soften his recommendation that most anti-depressant use by children be discouraged because of increased suicidal behavior among young people who took the drugs.

During discussions with his managers in March, "alternative conclusions were offered to me, which I declined to incorporate into my written document," said Andrew Mosholder, who works in the FDA's Division of Drug Risk Evaluation.

Instead of discouraging the use of all but one anti-depressant, Prozac, for children, he was told to suggest that children use such medications "with caution."

Mosholder told the subcommittee that Prozac, the only drug approved to treat depressed children, also posed the least risk.

It's standard for superiors to review conclusions "to ensure they're supported by the evidence, countered Dr. Paul Seligman, acting director of the agency's Office of Drug Safety, outside the hearing room.

"That was done in this case. There was never any pressure to change what he wrote," Seligman said.

Mosholder told the panel that by last December his work confirmed his preliminary analysis that children taking Paxil and seven other antidepressants suffered increased suicidal thoughts and behavior more often than children taking sugar pills. That finding was confirmed by an FDA senior reviewer.

New dinosaur fossil found



SCIENCE/AP

An artist's rendering shows *Dinocophalosaurus orientalis*, a long-necked sea reptile that probably preyed on fish and squid in a shallow sea in present-day southeast China more than 230 million years ago. The creature's relatively stiff neck, approximately 5½ feet, was almost twice as long as its body. The new fossil was discovered by Chun Li of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2002.

Pledge of Allegiance vote

WASHINGTON — In a vote with election-year consequences, the House sought to assure that God's 30-year place in the Pledge of Allegiance will be safe from federal court challenges.

The bill, approved on a 247-173 vote Thursday, would prevent federal courts, including the Supreme Court, from ruling on whether the words "under God" should be stricken from the pledge.

The legislation drew strong protests from Democrats who said they want "under God" to remain but viewed the measure as an unconstitutional attack on the judicial branch. They said it was meant mainly to force them into a controversial vote just six weeks before the election.

Senate OKs \$680M for Sudan

WASHINGTON — The Senate approved up to

\$680 million in aid for the embattled Darfur region of Sudan on Thursday, including money it would shift from an unspent fund for rebuilding Iraq.

The sum would be Congress' latest infusion of assistance to a Texas-sized region of western Africa racked by a conflict that has killed 50,000 people and left 1.2 million more homeless. Many others lack food or medical care.

U.S. aid for Sudan has largely drawn bipartisan support. Underlining that, the assistance included \$150 million that would be transferred from a largely unspent \$184 billion fund for rebuilding Iraq, a top U.S. priority that has languished due to violence and red tape.

The Sudan money was included in a \$19.7 billion foreign aid bill for next year that the Senate approved by voice vote. The House approved its version of the legislation in July and included \$311 million for Sudan. The two chambers will next have to write a compromise measure.

From The Associated Press

Bush solidifies support among conservatives

Experts say it will be close race

BY WILL LESTER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush solidified his advantage among men during the last month and holds his highest ratings since January on job performance, the economy and Iraq, according to an Associated Press poll.

Bush has a 7-point lead over his Democratic challenger, Senator John Kerry — 52 percent to 45 percent among likely voters — in the AP-Ipsos survey less than six weeks before the Nov. 2 presidential election. Independent candidate Ralph Nader was backed by 1 percent.

The president held the advantage despite increasing violence in Iraq and a week of attacks on his Iraq policy by an increasingly combative Kerry.

"We took a lead after our convention and the lead has held," said Matthew Dowd, a senior Bush campaign strategist. Bush has a slight lead in some polls, and is running even in others.

Since the Republican convention, Bush's job approval is up, 54 percent among likely voters, and just over half of them approve of

On the issues



How will Americans know when the war on terrorism is won?

President Bush



"It is unlike any conventional war we have fought in the past. It will not end with a peace treaty or

by the capture of a city or the fall of a single regime. It will be won through the steady advance of freedom, hope, and opportunity."

Sen. John Kerry



"The global war on terrorism will be finally won when terrorists no longer have global reach and terrorist organizations are unable to inflict

catastrophic attacks. That will happen when we cut off their financing, their sanctuaries, their recruiting capabilities and their access to weapons of mass destruction."

his handling of the economy and Iraq. His approval in all three areas is as high as it's been all year in the polling conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

Dowd wasn't assuming a Bush advantage would hold up through the election, however.

"The way we're approaching this, it will be a very close election," he said, adding that turning out Republican voters will be crucial.

The Kerry campaign focused its message in recent days on growing problems in Iraq as Bush has talked about making steady progress there.

"If you look at all the recent polls, this race is headed back to even," said Mark Mellman, a

Kerry campaign pollster. He said Kerry still has time to "make the case" with voters.

In the 2000 presidential election, three in 10 voters said they made up their minds in the last month, including one in 10 who did so in the final three days, according to exit polls. The undecided group is believed to be smaller this year.

Bush holds a 17-point lead among men. And Bush and Kerry are tied among women, a traditionally Democratic group that now favors Bush on protecting the country.

The poll of 931 likely voters was taken Sept. 20-22 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, larger for subgroups.

Kerry: Bush's pursuit of Saddam allowed bin Laden to stay free

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry faulted President Bush on Friday for pursuing Saddam Hussein instead of Sept. 11 mastermind Osama bin Laden, a part of a Bush strategy he contended had made defeating terrorism more difficult.

"The invasion of Iraq was a battle against our greatest enemy, al-Qaida," Kerry said in a speech at Temple University. "There's just no question about it. The president's misjudgment, miscalculation and mismanagement of the war in Iraq all make the war on terror harder to win."

Kerry, in offering a detailed strategy to contain terrorism and to draw a sharp distinction between his and the president's views on national security, added, "Iraq is now what it was not before, the war, a haven for terrorists."

While campaigning Friday in Lafayette, Louisiana, Vice President Dick Cheney told supporters, "John Kerry is trying to tear down and trash all the good that has been accomplished."

A day earlier, Kerry told The Columbus Dispatch that the president's actions in Iraq and elsewhere show Bush masquerading

See related story on Page 14

as a mainstream conservative while pursuing extremist policies.

"I don't view these people as conservatives," Kerry said. "I actually view them as extreme, and I think their policies have been extreme, and that extends all the way to Iraq, where this president, in my judgment, diverted the real war on terror — which was Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida — and almost obsessively moved to deal with Iraq in a way that weakened our nation, overextended our armed forces, cost us \$200 billion and created a breach in our oldest alliances."

Kerry also mentioned a blurring line between the separation of church and state and the growing federal budget deficits.

To douse the spread of terrorism, Kerry proposed policies aimed at denying individuals and groups the ability to organize and attack. Kerry said he would build a better military and intelligence apparatus to go after enemies, deny terrorists the weapons and financing, move against worldwide terrorist havens and recruitment centers, and promote freedom of democracy in Muslim nations.

Ivan strikes Gulf; Floridians brace for 4th hurricane

BY MARK BABINECK
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Ivan's second foray into the United States came with little wind but plenty of the rain, while Floridians brace for another possible pounding as Hurricane Jeanne appeared to be gearing up for a weekend landing.

After looping into the Atlantic and back into the Gulf of Mexico after its initial strike on the Alabama-Florida coast as a hurricane last week, Tropical Storm Ivan washed ashore near the Texas-Louisiana line Thursday night, bringing heavy rain to both sides of the border.

While the storm was expected to dissipate as it drifts into Texas this weekend, its rains are expected to persist and cause problems, and flood-prone Houston is in its projected path.

"Friday night through Saturday morning, if you run a line through Galveston, Houston and College Station, that area probably is really going to get pounded," said National Weather Service meteorologist Kent Prochaska.

Jefferson County received between 3 and 3.5 inches of rain over four hours, but no flooding problems were immediately reported.

Louisiana was also spared any major problems. "It's just kind of like a cold front," Cameron Parish Emergency Preparedness Director Freddie Richard Jr. said late Thursday. "We're just getting some rain and a little bit of wind."

Florida residents also had the oh-no-not-again feeling as 105-mph Hurricane Jeanne appeared to be zeroing in this weekend for what would be the state's fourth thrashing this season.



Diane Kelly of West Palm Beach, Fla., stands in line Thursday, at a Home Depot in West Palm Beach to purchase 5-gallon gasoline containers. She was stocking up on items in case Hurricane Jeanne hits.

Jeanne already has been blamed for 1,070 flooding deaths in Haiti. At 8 a.m. EDT, Jeanne was about 315 miles east of Great Abaco Island in the northwestern Bahamas. It was expected to reach Florida by Sunday, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Some projections showed the storm hitting central Florida and then moving up the coast to North Carolina by Tuesday.

Halliburton restructures troubled KBR subsidiary

BY PAM EASTON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Halliburton Co. is restructuring its troubled engineering and construction subsidiary, and company officials say they would consider selling or spinning it off.

Halliburton subsidiary KBR "is on the road to a turnaround," Kris Galt, Halliburton's chief financial officer, told analysts and investors at a conference in Houston, where the company is based.

"We are looking for improvement in the near term. This is not something we can let go on and on and on. It is something that is frustrating for our shareholders."

Halliburton is in the process of settling 400,000 asbestos and \$1.2 billion claims as part of a 24,000 silica plan.

Halliburton inherited most of the claims five years ago when the conglomerate, then under the leadership of Vice President Dick Cheney, acquired Dresser Industries Inc. for \$7.7 billion.

Gaut said Thursday that the company and the lawyers for the plaintiffs who brought the asbestos and silica claims are eager to move on.

In the meantime, KBR chief executive Andrew Lane said KBR would reduce its five product lines to two to improve profitability.

The subsidiary will focus on its energy and chemicals and government and infrastructure divisions.

"KBR's strength is in engineering and project management and we will see that new alignment in the Middle East, where it has more than 30,000 employees and subcontractors in Iraq and Kuwait."

Halliburton has been the subject of criticism for its multibillion-dollar contracts with the Middle East, where it has more than 30,000 employees and subcontractors in Iraq and Kuwait.

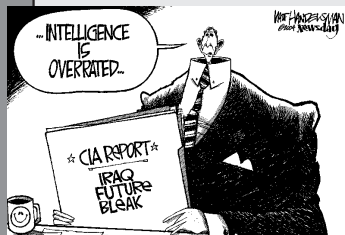
Cheney headed the company from 1995 until 2000, when he quit to become President Bush's running mate.

Several federal agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, are looking into the company's contracts and allegations of overcharging for food services and kickbacks by subcontractors.

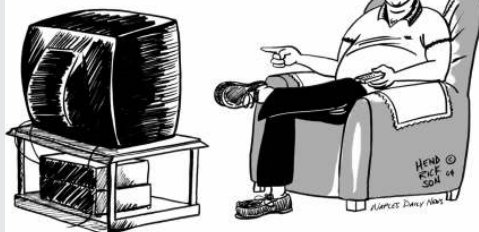
Halliburton has denied the accusations, labeling itself a political target and victim.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



CBS SHOULD'VE GIVEN THE "DOCUMENT INSPECTORS" MORE TIME TO DO THEIR JOB BEFORE LAUNCHING A PRE-EMPTIVE REPORT.



CDC: Many who need flu shots don't bother

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Of the Americans who most need a flu shot, fewer than half actually got one, federal health officials warned Thursday as they called for special attention to babies, toddlers and the elderly as vaccinations begin next month.

A record 100 million doses of flu vaccine will be available this

year, the vast majority of it shipped to doctors' offices by the end of October, said Dr. Keiji Fukuda of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That assurance comes a month after one major supplier, Chiron Corp., delayed its shipments because a small amount of vaccine failed sterility testing, suggesting contamination. That was "a precautionary move," and close monitoring so far suggests the rest of

Chiron's supply is fine, Fukuda said.

There's no way to predict how harsh flu will be this winter or how soon it will strike. But every year, it kills about 36,000 Americans and hospitalizes another 200,000.

Yet too many people don't bother to get flu shots, even those at highest risk of influenza-caused complications. Flu vaccine is most recommended for:

- Babies and toddlers 6 months to 23 months old. In 2002, the first year CDC began encouraging shots for these youngsters, about 44 percent were fully vaccinated.

- Any child 6 months or older with chronic health problems such as asthma or diabetes that leave them more vulnerable to influenza complications. Anyone 50 or older. Of particular concern are those over 64.

- Any adult with chronic health conditions, such as heart or lung disease.

- Pregnant women.
- Anyone who lives with or cares for someone at high risk of flu complications.

- Health care workers.

Flu shots generally cost \$15 to \$20. They're covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance. Made with killed influenza virus, they cannot cause the flu.



President Bush poses for a photo by a soldier headed for Kuwait, and ultimately Iraq, at the airport in Bangor, Maine, on Thursday. Bush had already boarded Air Force One but declined so that he could greet the troops on board during their refueling stop in Bangor. The troops were from the 414th Transportation Battalion in South Carolina, the 30th Area Support Group in North Carolina, and the 230th Area Support Group in Tennessee. Bush was in Bangor to attend a campaign rally.

Bush bids goodbye to soldiers bound for Iraq

The Associated Press

BANGOR, Maine — President Bush ended his takeoff from the airport Thursday to visit with nearly 300 soldiers whose charter plane stopped to refuel en route to Iraq.

Bush walked through the airplane shaking hands, signing autographs and chatting with the soldiers, who were from two National Guard units and a reserve unit in North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

"I appreciate being president to such fine men and women, God bless you all. God keep you safe," Bush said over the plane's public address system shortly before he departed.

"I'm stunned. I'm overjoyed," said Sgt. Rebecca Throckmorton, of Springfield, Ohio.

She picked up her cell phone and told her mother the president was aboard.

White House chief of staff Andy Card said Bush wanted to meet the soldiers on the aircraft, which had been scheduled to arrive for refueling shortly after Air Force One was to depart.

"We got them to push the gas peddle a little bit," Card said.

The plane landed and parked about 100 yards behind Air Force One.

Packed nearly full with 292 soldiers, the plane had departed from Fort Bragg, N.C.

Bush was in Bangor to address an airport rally with supporters.

Cronkite calls CBS report 'embarrassing'

Former anchor urges patience for network to finish investigation

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Former CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite called the network's report questioning President Bush's Vietnam-era National Guard service "embarrassing" but urged patience until an investigation is complete.

"We must wait while CBS management conduct the investigation they have promised. We can then decide what our reaction should be," said Cronkite, 87, who was in Boston on Thursday night to receive an award.

"The reaction at the moment,

of course, is embarrassment for everyone who is connected to CBS, and that embarrassment, I hope, will be squashed in time as we know what happened," he said.

Cronkite's successor, Dan Rather, apologized Monday for relying on questionable documents to support the Sept. 8 "60 Minutes" story.

The CBS report cited documents purported to be from one of Bush's commanders in the Texas Air National Guard. The documents say the commander, Lt. Col. Jerry Killian, ordered

Bush to take a medical exam, which he did not, and felt pressured to sign an evaluation of the exam.

The network appointed Dick Thornburgh, attorney general in the Reagan and first Bush administrations and former Pennsylvania governor, and Louis D. Boccia, who retired last year as president and chief executive officer of The Associated Press, to conduct an investigation into the report.

CBS has promised the two investigators full access and complete cooperation and said it will make their final report public.

Ovarian tissue transplant gives 'birth' to miracle

BY CONSTANT BRAND

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — A woman who gave birth after a pioneering ovarian tissue transplant struggled her day-old baby girl Friday and called her "a big miracle."

Ouarda Tourait, who was infertile after she underwent chemotherapy due to Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1997, gave birth Thursday night following the ground-breaking procedure that doctors say could one day allow women to delay motherhood beyond menopause.

"I am very happy; it's what I always wanted," said Tourait, who presented her healthy 8-pound, 3-ounce baby, Tamara, at a news conference at Brussels' Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc hospital.

Dr. Jacques Donnez cut ovarian tissue from Tourait before she underwent chemotherapy, then froze it in liquid nitrogen. Five years after she was cleared of cancer, the tissue was grafted

back onto her fallopian tubes, allowing for a natural pregnancy.

"This is the first time that the tissue was cryo-preserved, removed before chemotherapy and was successfully implanted," said Donnez, head of the Department of Gynecology and Andrology at the hospital. "It is a big message of hope for all women with cancer who have to go and have to have chemotherapy."

News of the procedure was published in the British medical journal *The Lancet* on Friday.

"When I proposed the ovarian graft to the patient, we had no idea it was working or not, we just ... had experimental studies in animals," Donnez said.

He said 146 women were undergoing the same procedure, but Mrs. Tourait was one of the first in 1997 who had undergone ... the cryopreservation."

Experts in the field were cautious about the report, however, saying there was a small chance the baby came from existing ovaries rather than the transplanted tissue.

Donnez said doctors from Catholic University in Louvain, Belgium, made a strong case that the birth resulted from the transplant.

"It cannot be proved with 100 percent certainty (that the pregnancy came from the graft) because ovulation from the transplant was calculated from temperature, but was not confirmed," said Dr. Kutluk Oktay, an expert who was not involved with the operation but has conducted much of the key research in the field.

Even though the woman's remaining ovarian tissue stopped working after the cancer treatment, it recovered and she ovulated three years later, which indicates it's possible that the native ovaries could have ovulated again to produce the baby, Oktay said.

Donnez was optimistic the procedure would be made easier in the years ahead thanks to advances, meaning more women could be given the choice of having a baby. He said the treatment was not very expensive.

NYC imam convicted of fraud

NEW YORK — The former director of a basement mosque that prosecutors described as a "cesspool of fraud" has been convicted of defrauding the government by processing hundreds of bogus applications for people hoping to enter or stay in the United States.

Muhammad Khalil, 63, was convicted Wednesday of conspiring to submit the applications on behalf of aliens under the federal Religious Worker Program and to obtain Social Security cards in false names.

He could face more than five years in prison at his sentencing Jan. 18, prosecutors said Thursday. Defense lawyer Roger Travis insisted on a plea closing that Khalil operated a legitimate mosque and that prosecutors relied on a "rogues gallery of witnesses" to discredit him.

Former senator suffers head injury

SALEM, Ore. — Former Sen. Mark Hatfield is in intensive care after falling and hitting his head at his daughter's home in Bethesda, Md., a family spokesman said Thursday.

The 82-year-old Hatfield fell Wednesday evening after attending the dedication of a government building named in his honor in Bethesda.

Gerry Frank, a longtime friend who served as chief of staff to the former Republican senator, said Hatfield was taken by ambulance to Suburban Hospital in Bethesda and later transferred to Washington Hospital Center. Doctors weren't sure what caused the fall, although they said it did not appear Hatfield was under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Hatfield's son said late Thursday that his father is in stable condition.

From The Associated Press

BMW Military Sales
ProgramThe new
BMW 6 SeriesThe Ultimate
Driving Machine

The new **BMW 6 Series Coupé.**
Where did you say you were headed?

Not that it matters with the new BMW 6 Series Coupé. Getting there is an end in itself. The BMW 6 Series Coupé is the discerning driver's dream come true. It's hard to imagine a finer weekend getaway car – or a more enjoyable daily driver. It is a car of exceptional power, precision and refinement.

Check it out this spring at your local BMW agent.

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www.bmw.de/militarysales

Dry town rethinking

MA ROCKPORT — Residents of this tourist village where alcohol has been banned for nearly 150 years have asked the Legislature to take the first step toward allowing some sales of booze.

Except for a brief period after Prohibition, Rockport has been dry since 1856, when 200 hatchet-wielding women swept through town and destroyed anything containing liquor.

At a town meeting, nearly 1,000 people voted by a 3-to-1 margin to begin allowing the sale of alcohol at restaurants. Liquor stores and bars would still be banned.

The vote asks the state Legislature to approve a home rule petition that would place the issue before town voters in April.

Striker land wanted

HI HONOLULU — The federal government wants to pay \$15.9 million to take over 1,400 acres of pineapple fields and other agriculture land for training the Army's new Stryker Brigade.

The land near Schofield Barracks would be purchased through eminent domain from Campbell Estates, which supports the deal.

Environmentalists and Native Hawaiian groups, however, are expected to oppose the federal condemnation of the land near Schofield Barracks, some of which is currently used by Del Monte to grow pineapples.

The land would be used by the Army for firing ranges and training for the 19-ton Stryker vehicles.

Attic accusation

TX HOUSTON — A teenage girl's claim that she was locked naked in an attic where she was fed bread and water in unsanitary conditions has prompted police and child welfare officials to investigate a residential treatment center.

Child Protective Services and law officers are reviewing the teen's report of abuse at Child and Adolescent Development Inc. in Houston.

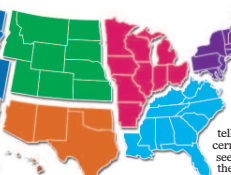
It was unknown when the alleged abuse took place or for how long.

School sickness

MO ST. LOUIS — About 80 students and several adults at a vocational-technical high school became ill after complaints of an unidentified odor.

The Clyde C. Miller Career Academy was evacuated, but Fire Department spokesman Kim Bacon said there was no evidence of natural gas, carbon monoxide or other "environmental concerns" that could cause illness.

Several students and some teachers and staff complained of nausea and headaches, school district spokeswoman Karen Hyton said. Some of the sick were treated at the scene; others were treated at two hospitals. None of the illnesses was serious, and no one was hospi-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

talized overnight.

Salute to Otis

NY MASSENA — A decade after his death, Otis Campbell, the town drunk on "The Andy Griffith Show," is the subject of a new book.

Massena historian and author John Michaud tells the *Watertown Daily Times* that actor Hal J. Smith was the "best sober drunk in Hollywood."

Michaud's 72-page book titled "More Than Otis: No Bull! A Salute to Hollywood Actor Hal J. Smith" is a collection of stories about Smith culled from a mix of celebrities such as Andy Griffith and local friends from his northern New York hometown.

Smith graduated from Massena High School in 1936 and went on to a show business career that spanned nearly five decades. Best known for his role on Griffith's show as the lovable town drunk Otis who regularly slept off his intoxication in Mayberry's jail, Smith also appeared on such television shows as "The Brady Bunch" and "The Addams Family."

Farmer cleared in deaths

CA MERCED — A California dairy farmer charged in the deaths of two workers who went into a manure pit without training or safety equipment is innocent of any crime, a Merced jury decided.



Changing color

Olympic College student Kara Welling covers her head with her sweatshirt to keep dry as she walks in the rain to her car on campus in Bremerton, Wash. The leaves around the Bremerton community college are beginning to change into fall colors.

Patrick J. Faria was facing two counts of involuntary manslaughter and charges that he violated the state Labor Code in the deaths of Enrique Araisa and Jose Alatorre on his Gustine dairy.

Members of the jury did tell the court they were concerned that state regulations seemed lax, even years after the Feb. 2, 2001, deaths.

Alatorre had climbed into the pit to unclog it. He was overcome by toxic fumes coming from the mixture of liquid waste at the bottom of the narrow, 40-foot deep pit. He fell and drowned. Araisa climbed in to help Alatorre, and was also asphyxiated by the gases.

Prairie dog protection

SD PIERRE — Conservation groups have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service and several other agencies, seeking to block a program that calls for the poisoning and shooting of black-tailed prairie dogs on federal land.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Denver, argues that the plan to reduce the prairie dog population in southwestern South Dakota violates national environmental and forest-management laws.

Colonies of black-tailed prairie dogs once were widespread from Canada to Mexico, but the population has decreased through much of that range because of disease, eradication programs and urban sprawl.

House fire kills five

FL HOMESTEAD — A pre-dawn house fire killed five relatives as firefighters had trouble getting into the home because its windows were covered with burglar bars and plywood storm shutters, officials said.

Two adults and three children were found inside the building house, Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue Lt. Eugene Germain said. Four people died at the scene and one died on the way to a hospital, he said.

The victims apparently died of smoke inhalation because the fire did not breach the bedroom, where they all were possibly sleeping, Germain said.

The house didn't have smoke alarms, so the victims may not have even known there was a fire, he said. The victims' identities and exact relations were not immediately available.

Back taxes paid

PA POTTSVILLE — A Pottsville coal company has paid \$44,854 in back taxes to three Carbon County boroughs, preventing a sale of its properties.

Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co., which faces stiff opposition to its proposal to fill a huge mine pit with river dredge, coal ash and kiln dust, owed Lansford \$15,126, Nesquehoning \$9,275 and Summit Hill \$20,453 in 2002 taxes, according to county Tax Claim Bureau Director Marie Midas.

Lehigh Coal President James Curran Jr. has blamed financial setbacks for delays in paying the taxes. The company is struggling with fierce opposition to its plan to fill the so-called Springdale Pit in Coaldale, Pa., with dredge and Summit Hill with the dredge mixture, which opponents fear could pollute the water supply.



Fall decor

Anna Lyles arranges decorations at the Mesilla Valley Maze, a 10-acre corn field cut and groomed into a maze, on the first day of fall, in Las Cruces, N.M.



Rising moon

A Texas flag waves on top of Ameriguest Field in Arlington as a half moon is seen rising in the sky in Arlington, Texas.



Bulldog express

Harrelm Robertson, of Alma, Ark., gives her two-year-old bulldog, Cisco Kidd, a ride around the civic center parking lot in Lubbock, Texas. Robertson is in town for the Heart of the Plains dog show and uses the custom-made bulldog express truck to not only give Cisco a ride but also to transport supplies to the building.



Misty morning

Pete Smith, standing, pilots a model pontoon plane while his brother Randy Smith from Arizona films the flight. They were enjoying the early-morning stillness and mist on Kilinefine Pond in Vancouver, Wash. After a chilly and rainy end to summer, the first few days of autumn have been sunny and dry.



Food fight

Jordan Moore gives her friend Jessica Arnold a face full of mustard in the parking lot of Christ United Methodist Church. The Pine Street High, the church's youth group, held "the world's largest food fight" to kick off the youth ministry year and its weekly Wednesday night services.



Double the fun

Twin sisters Kaelyn, left, and Kelbi Winters, 4, enjoy a couple of snow cones at the Texas State Forest Festival in Lufkin, Texas.

Hybrid car bill

CA SACRAMENTO — Rebuffing lobbying by the chairman of Ford Motor Co., Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill Thursday that will let thousands of single-occupant hybrid vehicles use carpool lanes.

The bill allows up to 75,000 hybrids to obtain decals from the state to use carpool lanes without having to have the minimum number of two or three occupants. Other advanced-technology vehicles could also qualify for the program. To obtain the decals, the vehicles would have to get at least 45 miles per gallon and meet tough emission standards.

The new law is scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, but it also needs federal approval to be implemented because federal funds help pay for carpool lanes.

Seaplane festival

ME GREENVILLE — More than 300 planes converged on this lakeside town that remains a jump-off spot for bush pilots heading to even more remote regions of Maine and Canada.

The 31st annual International Seaplane Fly-In drew an estimated 100 seaplanes that landed on Moosehead Lake, and another 200 planes that landed at the local airport. Organizers said the three-day event attracted about 5,000 people.

The event celebrates the marvels of flying and the daring of the bush pilots who shuttle sportsmen, woodsmen and businessmen to fishing camps and logging sites. "For seaplane pilots, it's the biggest event in the United States," said David Quam, founder of the Seaplane Pilots Association.

Wrong moose = fine

WY CHEYENNE — Wyoming Attorney General Patrick Crank pleaded guilty and paid a \$210 fine Wednesday for a hunting violation in which his son illegally shot a female moose.

Saying it was a "stupid mistake" and a "humbling experience," Crank mailed papers to the Lincoln County Circuit Court, pleading guilty to being an accessory to the taking of the wrong sex of a moose and paying the citation.

In a letter to Circuit Judge Frank J. Zebre, Crank said he was hunting with his son around dusk in western Wyoming when they mistook a cow moose for a bull moose and shot it. His son had a state license to shoot a bull moose but not a cow moose.

"We spotted some moose near dark, believed one of the moose was a bull, and I told my son to shoot the animal we believed was a bull," he wrote. "After he shot the animal, and it had rolled down the hill, we discovered that he had killed a cow moose."

They field-dressed the moose, filled out the bull moose license and reported the violation to state Game and Fish warden Todd Graham.

Boy suspected of rape

WI MILWAUKEE — An 11-year-old boy raped an elderly neighborhood woman as three other boys watched, police said.

Police arrested him and three others, Sgt. Ken Henning said.

Henning said the boys had been "terrorizing" the 76-year-old woman in her house for a week, crawling through a window each week and stealing items. The woman lived alone, he said.

The woman alerted police after she was raped by one of the boys while the others — ages 11, 12 and 13 — watched, Henning said.

Henning said the 11-year-old boy admitted to the crime and was arrested on suspicion of sexual assault. The others were arrested on suspicion of being parties to a crime.

JFK Jr. plane for sale

NY SEAFORD — John F. Kennedy Jr.'s first airplane — sold after he bought the ill-fated craft that went down off Martha's Vineyard in 1999 — will be offered for sale online.

The three-bladed propeller plane will carry a reserve price of \$180,000, Internet auctioneer LeLand.com announced.

Bidding will begin online Nov. 10 and will conclude Dec. 2.

Kennedy, editor of *George* magazine, bought the plane in 1998 and sold it in May 1999 after buying the Piper Saratoga that crashed July 17, 1999, killing him, his wife Carolyn and his sister-in-law.

The plane's owner, who wants to remain anonymous, originally put it up for sale through another auction house in 2000 but did not find a buyer.

Peppers harm workers

NC CONOVER — Workers unloading a shipment at Laneventure Furniture complained of burning eyes, irritated skin, breathing difficulties and nausea.

Three were taken to the hospital, where emergency workers said the workers appeared to have been hit with pepper spray.

And in a way, they were. It turns out the culprit was hot chili peppers.

The truck the men were unloading was used to haul a shipment of dried Chile de Arbol peppers from California to El Paso, Texas.

Residue from the peppers lay dormant in the truck's wooden floorboards while the furniture was loaded, but became agitated and airborne during the trip to the furniture distributor's Conover plant, said Dave Weldon, emergency services director for Catawba County.

Laneventure ordered pizza for everyone after the ordeal, said Art Thompson, Laneventure's president.

"We told them to hold the chili peppers," he said.

Bus driver charged

NH BEDFORD — A former school bus driver has been charged with selling marijuana to a teenager who used to ride her bus.

Police said Nancy Hatch, 40, of Manchester, was arrested in a sting after the student's parents found marijuana at their home in Bedford.

Police said a search of Hatch's apartment yielded a pound of marijuana and \$490.

She was released on \$10,000 bail on charges of endangering the welfare of a child and possession and sale of illegal drugs.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

One actor's motto ...

'I gotta be good'

Aaron Eckhart has a philosophical belief that acting is similar to dragon slaying. Eckhart carried this mindset as he worked on his new movie, "Suspect Zero," in which he portrays an FBI agent searching for a serial killer.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/RT

BY LUANEE LEE

Scripted Howard News Service

You might call actor Aaron Eckhart a dragon slayer. At least that's how he characterizes acting. "Good acting is like a dragon," he says.

"You try to jump on the back of the dragon, and it always wants to knock you off. So you have to climb back and slay the dragon. Every time you act, it's like you're that kid trying to kill the monster, in a way."

The guy who wooed Julia Roberts in "Erin Brockovich" and Gwyneth Paltrow in "Possession" got his real start as the vengeful woman-hater in "The Company of Men." It was this independent film — directed by his former Brigham Young University classmate, Neil LaBute — that armed him with his Excalibur and brought him to movies like "The Missing," "The Core" and his latest, "Suspect Zero."

In "Suspect Zero," Eckhart not only defeats the dragon, he slays the demons that bedevil his character, an FBI agent in search of a mysterious serial killer. When he becomes the target of a maniacal adversary, it takes more than FBI protocol to determine just who is the prey.

Eckhart, who lived in northern California most of his life, left home the day he graduated for the Great White Way. His first paying gig was as part of the background in a beer commercial. But it earned enough in residuals to keep him going for four and a half years. His girlfriend and his job as a waiter also helped support him. Although he's good at most everything he tries, he said he was a terrible waiter at first.

"In college, I got a pretty good GPA. If I wanted it, I got straight A's. Like in acting, I can't see that there's any room for failure in that. A person can learn to act. I think I can teach anybody to act. It's how you approach it. Now

this is the big thing about life: First of all, anybody can do anything. We have everything inside of us to do everything," he says.

When Eckhart was 13, his family began traveling abroad because of his father's work in computer finance. He lived in England, Australia, France and Switzerland. The youngest of three boys and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he was always good at sports — from surfing to skiing to rugby.

Moving to England was a turning point in his life, he thinks. "I was in private school. The whole thing was absolutely mind-blowingly freaky. It was raining the whole time. It was gray — the streets, the people. These little cramped apartments. Come on, I was from California. I was starting to surf. I was going into the eighth grade. I was blind and wearing Vans and skateboarding. But then we made friends from Sweden and Iran and all over the world."

"My older brother didn't go — he stayed in Santa Barbara and surfed — but my middle brother went. I went to Australia by myself with my parents and then I went to France and Switzerland by myself. I feel I have a better understanding of America [because I] lived abroad."

"The Company of Men" not only ignited Eckhart's career, it elicited strange reactions from women. "Women sort of liked that. Some women got turned on by it. I did have encounters with girls I wanted to go out with who wouldn't go out with me because they remembered me from that film. They would have a visceral reaction to me when they first met me, and I would have to get over that," he says.

Next up for Eckhart, 36, is a film called "Never Was" to be shot in Canada, with Nick Nolte, Jessica Lange, Ian McKellen, Brittany Murphy and Alan Cumming.

"I'm always scared I can't do it," he admits. "I'm always scared I'm going to ruin the movie. But in this business, you don't have a choice. Once I say I'm doing it, I have to do it, and I have to bring myself up to the challenge. I know Nick Nolte's going to be great. I know Jessica Lange's going to be great. Ian McKellen's going to be great. So what choice do I have? I gotta be good."



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/SHNE

Before Aaron Eckhart's roles in well-known films, such as "The Core," he debuted as the vengeful woman-hater in the independent film "The Company of Men."

Godiva auctions famous dinner dates

A chance to see and be seen with Leonardo DiCaprio in Los Angeles. Or eat clam chowder with Ben Affleck in Boston. Or dine with Ricky Martin in Miami. These aren't necessarily fantasies for those with deep, charitable pockets.

These celebs — as well as Sarah Jessica Parker and Benjamin Brett — will auction dinner in their company for charities they have chosen individually. The bidding is being held on a Web site run by eBay, accessible through Godiva.com, the sponsor of the fund-raiser.

The winning bidder can bring seven friends to the dinner, each of which will be created by a well-known chef and topped off by a new truffle from Godiva. For the hosting celebrities, the pressure to entertain their guests is clear.

Martin was interested in talking about his charity, People for Children, a project of the Ricky Martin Foundation. The Latin singer created the organization in 1997 to help eliminate the trafficking of children.

The other dinners will raise money for various causes including the prevention of global warming and UNICEF.



Martin

Robert Downey Jr. flexes his pipes

Robert Downey Jr. is moving from the big screen to the music scene.

The "Gothika" and "Chaplin" star has signed an exclusive recording contract with the Sony Classical label.

"Robert is a brilliantly gifted songwriter who writes lyrics that are wise and moving," Sony Classical President Peter Gebb said Wednesday. "His burnished, smoky voice is an expressive and touching medium for the songs that he has written."

Downey's debut CD, not yet titled, will include two covers — "Smile" by Charlie Chaplin and "Your Move" by Yes — and eight pop ballads written, sung and played on the piano by the actor.



Downey Jr.

Hilton not looking for 'looks'

Paris Hilton says "looks don't matter anymore" when it comes to her dating preferences.

Hilton wrote in a column in her search for Mr. Right, she'd rather have someone with a good heart.

"It's all about how nice they are. At this point, I want to find a guy who's right for me. I want someone who's going to treat me well and love me."

Hilton, who broke up with Backstreet Boy Nick Carter this summer, starred in two seasons of the Fox reality show "The Simple Life." She recently published a memoir, "Confessions of an Heiress: A Tongue-in-Cheek Peek Behind the Pose," and launched a jewelry collection.

"I'd rather have someone with a good heart than some good-looking idiot with no brain, because looks fade and I know that. I know that I'm not going to be good-looking forever," she said. "No one is, so it doesn't matter."



Hilton

Musicians join forces for benefit album

Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton, Sting and U2 are joining forces on a benefit album for Burmese democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi.

R.E.M., Avril Lavigne, Coldplay and Travis are also contributing to a 27-track CD, "For the Lady: Dedicated to Freeing Aung San Suu Kyi."

Proceeds from the CD will go to the U.S. Campaign for Burma, it was announced Tuesday.

Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner and leader of the National League for Democracy opposition party, has spent most of the past 14 years under house arrest.

The military junta in her country, also called Myanmar, has tolerated little dissent since taking power after crushing a 1988 pro-democracy demonstration. The junta refused to hand over power or convene parliament after Suu Kyi's party won 1990 elections.

The album will feature a U2 song, "Walk On," which is dedicated to Suu Kyi and has been banned in Myanmar.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

YOUR MONEY

AOL offers expanded password security

BY ANIK JESDANUN

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Passwords alone won't be enough to get onto America Online under a new, optional log-on service that makes AOL the first major U.S. online business to offer customers a second layer of security.

The so-called two-factor authentication scheme will cost \$1.95 a month in addition to a one-time \$9.95 fee. It is initially targeted at small businesses, victims of identity theft and individuals who pay a lot of bills and conduct other financial transactions through their AOL accounts.

Subscribers get a matchbook-size device from Bedford, Mass.-based RSA Security Inc. and individuals who pay a lot of bills and conduct other financial transactions through their AOL accounts.

Two-factor authentication — whether through the RSA device, biometrics or cards printed with rotating lists of passwords — is common in Scandinavia, Brazil, Singapore and selected countries. In the United States, its use is largely limited to employees accessing office networks remotely or people with high-value financial portfolios.

AOL spokesman Andrew Weinstein said the move was ripe to offer it as subscribers move more of their sensitive personal, business and financial information online.

The offering also comes as scammers increasingly find ways to trick subscribers into giving their passwords by sending e-mail disguised as legitimate information requests.

And with so many sites now requiring passwords, many Internet users have be-



come careless: They create easy-to-remember passwords that tend to be easy to guess — or they write them down on sticky notes and post them at their computers.

By requiring the second, rotating pass-word, "you don't have to remember complicated passwords to still have good security," said Scott Schnell, a senior vice president at RSA Security.

The second password will be required for checking e-mail and accessing services tied to the AOL account, including calendars, stock portfolios and AOL's Bill Pay.

It won't protect services offered by third

parties on the open Internet, outside AOL's walled gardens, except in cases where their statements and other sensitive information are sent to the AOL e-mail account. Nor is the second password needed to use AOL Instant Messenger.

Gartner analyst Avihav Litan believes a "very narrow set of consumers" — perhaps 5 percent to 15 percent of AOL's 30 million subscribers — would sign up, but "you have to start somewhere."

She said AOL's offering likely would prompt other Internet service providers and banks to consider such systems more

seriously, though the prevailing belief these days is that customers will find them difficult to use.

Just this summer, HSBC Bank USA began requiring a second password to access its bill-payment services.

That password is entered using an on-screen keypad to thwart snoops who secretly installed software that records key-boards for letters as they are typed on a regular key-board.

Unlike AOL's service, though, neither password automatically changes, nor is there a charge.

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week	Low	High	Net	% YTD
Change	Low	High	Change	Change
10,253.12	10,230.47	10,270.11	-12.76	-0.12
2,660.66	2,650.00	2,670.00	-10.34	-0.39
243.26	242.00	244.00	-1.74	-0.72
6,798.12	6,744.48	6,852.43	-53.65	-0.79
1,278.88	1,264.38	1,293.48	-14.50	-1.15
2,635.12	2,620.00	2,650.00	-14.88	-0.56
1,163.23	1,150.00	1,175.00	-13.23	-1.15
618.46	607.00	625.00	-11.54	-1.88
696.42	682.13	710.00	27.87	4.09
11,371.74	11,355.20	11,400.00	-14.26	-0.13

NYSE				AMEX				NASDAQ			
Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)			
Name	Vol	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	Last	Chg
Capgemini	35,925	24.3	-0.17	Novartis	36,975	34.54	-0.11	Intel	67,264	20.38	-0.48
Genzyme	30,912	61.13	5.54	Novartis	36,975	34.54	-0.11	Intel	67,264	20.38	-0.48
Pfizer	29,950	29.51	-0.17	Sennit	2,957	11.86	-0.01	Sanofi	69,336	4.22	-0.03
Amgen	19,479	31.00	0.00	Bernigal	75,229	2.84	+36	Gen	29,925	19.89	-0.09
Eli Lilly	17,738	42.16	-1.10	Q&A Tech	10,465	1.45	-0.01	Gen	29,925	19.89	-0.09
Novartis	36,975	34.54	-0.11	SF Fed	5,263	2.84	-0.01	Appl	75,962	17.16	-0.07
Novartis	36,975	34.54	-0.11	Q&A Tech	10,465	1.45	-0.01	Appl	75,962	17.16	-0.07
Novartis	36,975	34.54	-0.11	Q&A Tech	10,465	1.45	-0.01	Gen	29,925	19.89	-0.09
Novartis	36,975	34.54	-0.11	Walters	4,687	2.75	+89	Walters	5,486	1.84	+3.81
Novartis	36,975	34.54	-0.11	SF Fed	5,263	2.84	-0.01	Novartis	36,975	34.54	-0.11
Novartis	36,975	34.54	-0.11	Novartis	36,975	34.54	-0.11	Novartis	36,975	34.54	-0.11

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	Vol	FE	Net	% YTD
Alliant Techsystems	-14	58.22	+1.75	+3.0
Airbus	-14	31.00	+0.00	+0.0
Boeing	-14	31.00	+0.00	+0.0
General Dynamics	-14	40.43	+0.00	+0.0
Lockheed Martin	-14	40.43	+0.00	+0.0
Northrop Grumman	-14	31.00	+0.00	+0.0
Raytheon	-14	31.00	+0.00	+0.0
Boeing	-14	31.00	+0.00	+0.0
Boeing	-14	31.00	+0.00	+0.0
Boeing	-14	31.00	+0.00	+0.0

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	Vol	NAV	Net	% YTD
Fidelity Investor: Growth	35.65	-0.19	+1.0	+1.0
Fidelity Investor: Growth	35.65	-0.19	+1.0	+1.0
Fidelity Investor: Growth	35.65	-0.19	+1.0	+1.0
Fidelity Investor: Growth	35.65	-0.19	+1.0	+1.0
Fidelity Investor: Growth	35.65	-0.19	+1.0	+1.0

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.2659
British pound	\$1.85
Japanese yen (Sept. 25)	107.00
South Korean won (Sept. 24)	1,118.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37698
British pound	\$1.85095
Canada (Dollar)	0.7262
Denmark (Krone)	6.570
Egypt (Pound)	0.7398
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2314
Hungary (Forint)	199.40
Indonesia (Rupiah)	17,415
Israel (Shekel)	4.2463
Japan (Yen)	107.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.24651
Malaysia (Ringgit)	0.34
Philippines (Peso)	56.31
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	0.376
Singapore (Dollar)	1.0391
South Korea (Won)	1,118.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.75
Thailand (Baht)	41.35
Turkey (Lira)	1,492,000.00

Military exchange rates	
British pound	\$1.85095
Canada (Dollar)	0.7262
Denmark (Krone)	6.570
Egypt (Pound)	0.7398
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2314
Hungary (Forint)	199.40
Indonesia (Rupiah)	17,415
Israel (Shekel)	4.2463
Japan (Yen)	107.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.24651
Malaysia (Ringgit)	0.34
Philippines (Peso)	56.31
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	0.376
Singapore (Dollar)	1.0391
South Korea (Won)	1,118.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.75
Thailand (Baht)	41.35
Turkey (Lira)	1,492,000.00

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$465.72
Silver	\$6.36
Platinum	\$915.00
Palladium	\$2,100.00
Rhodium	\$1,100.00
Iridium	\$1,100.00
Osmium	\$1,100.00
Ruthenium	\$1,100.00
Titanium	\$1,100.00
Zinc	\$1,100.00

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	3.25
3-month bill	1.72
30-year bond	4.80
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com	

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Writing skills a must

CBS MarketWatch
NEW YORK — Even if you are not a journalist or an author, writing skills are likely to still count for a lot when being hired or promoted.

Two-thirds of American employees have some writing responsibility, reports Business Roundtable, a national association of chief executives. The association surveyed 120 companies with 8 million employees.

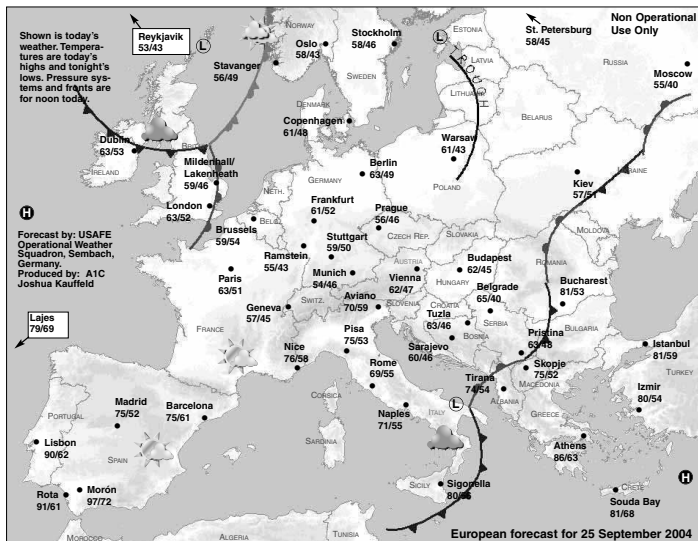
According to the Business Roundtable survey, 80 percent of large companies take writing skills into account when hiring, and 50 percent look to writing skills when making promotion decisions. Each year, corporations spend an estimated \$3.1 billion to remedy their employees' writing deficiencies.

Lu Rehling, the director of San Francisco State University's Technical and Professional Writing program, said most employees aren't prepared for business writing: memos, proposals, articles and presentations. Many workers rely only on their essay writing experience from high school. "It's great if you want to write for the New Yorker," she added, "but most workplaces are looking for a different kind of writing."

To improve your workplace writing, Rehling recommends the following: Write and read drafts from your audience's point of view. "Get out of your own head," she said. It will help you clear out your biases, leaving clear, jargon-free writing that contains everything a reader would need to know.

Share your work with an honest peer to examine grammar, spelling and most important, content. Most people consider writing to be highly personal, but don't sugarcoat problems or ruthlessly rip a piece apart. Look for constructive criticism instead. "Be frank with each other about ways the writing can improve," Rehling advises.

Take advantage of learning opportunities. Your employer may offer classes in workplace writing. You also might look into classes at local colleges, commercial training programs or one-on-one executive coaching.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly cloudy with rainshowers early Sunday. Highs in the upper 50s, Sunday lows in the mid to lower 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain and gusty winds. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s, Sunday lows in the mid to upper 40s to lower 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the low 60s, Sunday lows in the mid to upper

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s to upper 70s, Sunday lows in the mid to upper 50s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and gusty winds. Highs in the 60s, Sunday lows in the mid to upper 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rain and gusty winds. Highs in the mid to upper 50s, Sunday lows in the low 40s to low 50s.

Hungary: Cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the low 60s, Sunday lows in the mid 40s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the low to mid 70s, Sunday lows in the lower to upper 50s.

Southern Italy: Cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the low 70s, Sunday lows in the mid to 50s.

Kosovo: Cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low to mid 60s, Sunday lows in the low to mid 40s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 50s, Sunday lows in the low to upper 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s to upper 90s, Sunday lows in the low 50s to low 60's.

KEY: Sunny Pt. Cldy. Mostly cldy. Cloudy Showers Tstorms Rain Rain/snow Snow Cold frnt. Warm frnt. TROUGH Occluded fr. Staty. front (L) (H) Low High

AFRIC

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	63	50	Mogadishu	87	75
Dakar	88	78	Nairobi	82	58
Freetown	85	74	Rabat	79	61
Kinshasa	86	70	Tripoli	93	63

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	61	53	Manila	92	71
Bahrain	97	74	Mexico City	71	53
Beijing	79	56	Montreal	80	5
Beirut	84	73	Riyadh	102	7
Bermuda	82	74	Rio de Jan	82	61
Caracas	86	65	Seoul	79	51
Helsinki	89	76	Sofia	75	41
Hong Kong	74	63	Sydney	69	5
Lithuania	96	63	Tokyo	83	61

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible]

44	PdA	Hamburg	80	56	PdA
45	PdA	Hartend Spiegel	81	55	PdA
46	PdA	Heima	77	49	CF
47	PdA	Hilversum	77	50	CF
55	PdA	Houston	85	69	Rain
56	PdA	Indy	80	65	Rain
71	Rain	Indianapolis	78	54	PdA
72	PdA	Jackson Miss.	85	64	PdA
73	PdA	Jacksonville	80	65	PdA
76	Rain	Jamez	78	47	Rain
77	PdA	Jessup	80	65	PdA
48	PdA	Key West	86	77	CF
52	PdA	Key West	83	62	PdA
53	PdA	Key West	87	67	CF
49	PdA	Lansing	72	48	PdA
57	PdA	Las Vegas	84	68	CF
58	PdA	Las Vegas	84	68	CF
47	CF	Lincoln	76	49	PdA
59	PdA	Louisville	80	63	CF
30	CF	Los Angeles	86	63	CF
48	CF	Luxville	83	62	PdA
49	CF	Luxville	83	62	PdA
48	PdA	Macon	87	63	CF
50	PdA	Macon	87	63	CF
51	PdA	Madison	80	49	CF
60	CF	Memphis	84	64	PdA
60	CF	Memphis	84	64	PdA
47	CF	Midland-Odessa	79	60	PdA
48	PdA	Minneapolis	88	52	CF
49	PdA	Missoula	88	52	CF
50	PdA	Mobile	88	65	CF
51	PdA	Mobile	88	65	CF

[illegible]

As of 11:00 AM

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Use Associated Press

Eastern U.S. time

temperature zones for the day.

The map shows the Eastern United States with temperature zones indicated by numbers: 70s, 60s, 50s, 40s, 30s, 20s, 10s, and 0s. A high-pressure system (H) is located in the upper left, and a low-pressure system (L) is in the lower left. A cold front (solid line with triangles) runs from the high-pressure system down the East Coast. A warm front (dashed line with semicircles) runs from the low-pressure system up the East Coast. A stationary front (solid line with alternating triangles and semicircles) is located in the middle of the East Coast. The name "JEANNE" is written near the stationary front. Below the map is a legend for weather symbols: Clouds, Snow, Ice, Sunny, Partly Cloudy, and Cloudy. Above the legend is a legend for front types: Cold, Warm, and Stationary.

FRONTS:

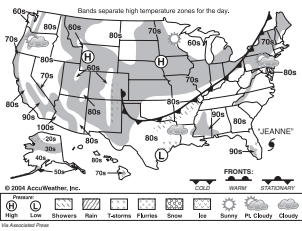
COLD WARM STATIONARY

Clouds Snow Ice Sunny Partly Cloudy Cloudy

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

Risks associated with high temperature zones for the day



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Pressure:		
		
High	Low	Showers

Via Associated Press

Scheduled to ETS or PCS?

Check our Relocation Guide
every Saturday to find
Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Horoscope

If you've got something to rant about, you'd better get it out now or forever hold your peace. Tomorrow, aggressive Mars enters diplomatic Libra, where it will traverse until Nov. 11. This transit has the effect of putting an angry person in a pink room—who can stay angry in a pink room? A calming, pacifying energy takes hold.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 25). An exciting year lies ahead for you, one full of optimism, opportunity and well-deserved recognition. In typical Libra fashion, you take it all in stride, never letting your good fortune go to your head or forgetting the little people who knew you when. Your charisma draws lovers and friends to your side like moths to a flame. Love signs are Cancer and Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

When the captain says, "Who will go?" you don't hesitate to put up your hand and say, "I will!" You're eager to taste life in all its fullness, which means charging forward when others around you are running away.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You'll be sizing up the competition, and it actually inspires you when you find out that you're up against some tough cookies. Don't feel you've got to sprint ahead to win. Your usual cool, steady stride will get you there in style.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Possibly nobody is hearing you, you've got to say. But as long as people are doing what you want them to do, what does it matter? You'll rely more on your intuitive knowledge than semantics. Choose your company well tonight.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Sometimes, you just have to put the cart before the horse—like when there's a sale on carts, for instance. Go ahead, and act on faith. You'll find your "horses" in no time and then be able to get everything in the proper order again.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

There's no holding you back now, when everything you touch turns to gold. You wow them with a work with a bril-

liant proposal and still have the stamina to go out partying at night. Needless to say, you turn heads wherever you go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Someone in your life isn't pulling his or her own weight. Now's a good time to take stock of your friends and business associates. If someone else's problems are dragging you down, it's time to think about cutting bait.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Some people are there to take care of you, and some people are there to take what you can get. Your job is to tell the difference and do what's right for you. Activities you do on a whim lead to fortuitous meetings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Something from your past resurfaces. It could be a problem you thought you'd seen the last of, or an old love you hoped to be reunited with, or something as mundane as a lost earring that turns up between the sofa cushions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Hard work over the past couple of weeks—not to mention schmoozing with all the right people—could pay off in a big way. Go ahead and indulge yourself with a little reward. Loved ones spoil you rotten tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Even the most obsessive of workaholics needs to have a little fun every now and then. If single, drag yourself away from your desk, and hook up with your friends. You can learn a lot from their carefree style.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Membership has its privileges, and you'll enjoy a few of those. You're happy you put forth the effort required to be part of a group. Be frank with people you don't know well. White lies will come back to haunt you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Breathe a sigh of relief because your load gets a lot lighter and your mood gets a lot brighter. Enjoy the fresh sense of creativity and mental stimulation that the stars bring you. Take time out with friends and loved ones.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



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Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



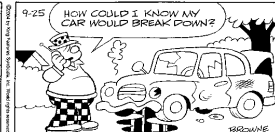
Zits



Cathy



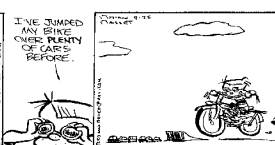
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



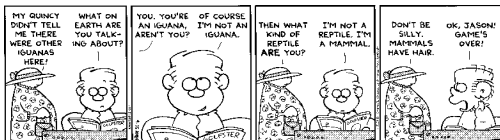
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



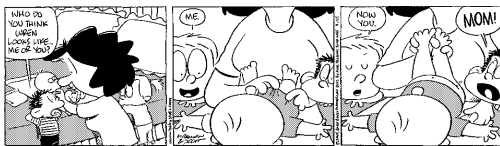
Fotrot



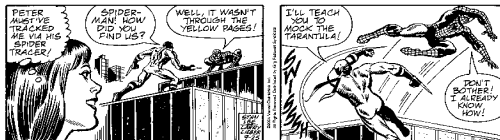
B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



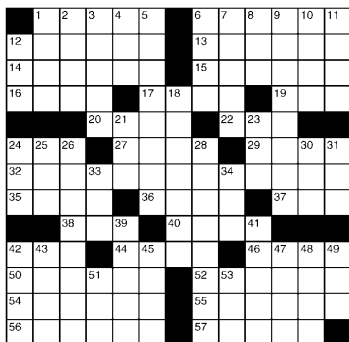
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



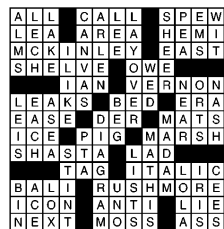
Across

- 1 In
- 2 accompaniment
- 6 Range portion
- 12 "20 Questions" category
- 13 One known for cutting remarks?
- 14 J. Lo biopic
- 15 "Moonlight," e.g.
- 16 Booty
- 17 Burn a bit
- 19 Part of CRT
- 20 1997 Andrea Bocelli album
- 22 Affirmative action?
- 24 Actor McBride
- 27 Understands, in Aberdeen
- 29 Humdinger
- 32 1970s sitcom
- 35 Ratio phrase
- 36 Paddock papa
- 37 Snake eyes
- 38 Early bird?
- 40 Vortex
- 42 Yon lassie
- 44 Mark replacement
- 46 "Zounds!"
- 50 Pizza topping
- 52 Subtlety
- 54 Kay Thompson heroine
- 55 Mideast nation
- 56 Mended, in a way
- 57 Tilt

Down

- 1 From the top
- 2 Actress Kedrova
- 3 The end
- 4 Tandoori bread
- 5 Berg castoffs
- 6 Arizona city
- 7 Decorate
- 8 Clerical error?
- 9 Carmichael classic
- 10 Tittle
- 11 Unravel
- 12 Ninny
- 13 More convenient
- 14 Theater letters
- 15 Ancient
- 16 Forensics drama
- 17 Possesses
- 18 Gage Norton's department
- 28 Mocking
- 30 Despondent
- 31 Important numero
- 33 Visibility hindrance
- 34 "Waking — Devine"
- 39 Sleem members
- 41 Long
- 42 Did some weeding
- 43 Scat specialist
- 45 Secondhand
- 47 Summerlime pest
- 48 Dogfight fighters
- 49 N.J. neighbor
- 51 Sportscaster
- 52 Scully
- 53 Dos Passos trilogy

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-25

CRYPTOQUIP

M DMRJ NV IJDMJFJ Z
LYQMHHJD'L DMFMUK
YQZHNJHL BVQDP IJ BZDDJP


Z UQNBH ZBRJH LQMNJ
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU PLAY A SCALE ON A FRESHLY POLISHED PIANO, YOU MIGHT GO FROM C TO SHINING C.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals R

Puttering around with golf might be hazardous for IOC

Think the dozen golfers on the U.S. Ryder Cup team looked doped last weekend getting drummed by Europe? Just wait. The real fun could still be a few years off.

One day, those pampered souls and their putters might have to face Fiji, mighty Fiji, in the Olympics. The soonest it could happen is the 2012 Games, and that's only if the International Olympic Committee gets its way. You'd think tanking junkies all the time and handing out medals were enough.

Jim Litke

 They've thought about golf every four years — not to mention taking one back occasionally — but would be tiring enough to keep the swells who run the IOC from hatching grand new plans in between. But no.

In another sign they haven't yet filled up all the working hours once devoted to taking bribes, the IOC on Wednesday notified the governing bodies of golf and four other sports that they made the short list for possible inclusion in 2012.

It's hard to muster strong feelings about rugby, squash, karate and roller sports, but golf is a different matter. Like mountain climbing, coral singing, dumbbell-swinging, still fishing and tug of war, it was once part of the Olympic roster. Golf was dropped following the 1904 St. Louis Games and there hasn't been much clamor for its return before now, other than some preliminary discussions in 1992, when the Atlanta power brokers who locked up the 1996 Summer Games dangled the possibility of playing matches at nearby Augusta National.

Golf certainly satisfies the most important criteria laid out for a sport to join the Olympics. It has an ever-growing number of participants and spectators around the globe, and the past dozen years have seen the emergence of world-class professionals in even the most far-flung corners.

But let's be clear about this. What makes golf considerably more attractive to the IOC and NBC is money, money and more money.

Enough to line the pockets of most everybody involved.

However, the last time the subject came up, most of the talent had too much money at stake and too little time to voluntarily punch a two-week hole in their

schedules to represent their country free of charge.

Peter Dawson, secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, has already gone on record saying neither the PGA nor European Tour were thrilled by the idea. Small wonder. Like tennis, another proven moneymaker jammed into the Olympic schedule without much fanfare and even less return, it remains to be seen whether the public would buy into an Olympic golf tournament as a way of producing a true world champion.

The U.S. golfers, to be sure, won't march willingly in anybody's opening ceremony parade. The last time the subject was broached, the late Payne Stewart, a veteran of Ryder Cup and several other international competitions, shook his head slowly and smiled.

"That might take some convincing," he said. "Most everybody out here is used to playing for something."

Anybody who heard all the whispering that followed their latest humbling in the Ryder Cup was reminded of that. A dozen U.S. players are already committed to that event and the Presidents Cup in alternating years, and a few of the top-ranked golfers usually compete in the World and Dunhill Cups. And the last thing the Olympics need is another set of disgruntled pros expressing that unhappiness by tearing through the minibus in some five-star hotel.

Besides, the idle rich already have enough to do in the Olympics. Even forgetting all the pros from moneyed sports like basketball, tennis and hockey, they've cornered the market on sailing and equestrian. And with figure skating, synchronized swimming and gymnastics already part of the Games, who needs another set of high-strung actors decked out in bad costumes?

IOC president Jacques Rogge repeatedly has said the roster is from 28 sports, with around 10,000 athletes, and sports will be added only if others are dropped. By carving out a place for golf on the short list, the IOC told hopefuls such as bowling, water skiing, billiards, ballroom dancing, chess, bridge and surfing to expect an invitation anytime soon.

So golf has that going for it, at least. It's mind-boggling to think what could have happened if ballroom dancing went big-time and Don King horned in. Anybody for a "Last Tango in Paris"?

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org.

Seeing his fifth victory in his past six tournaments, world No. 1 Vijay Singh broke 70 for the 53rd time this year on Thursday.

Singh hammers field in 84 Lumber Classic with a first-round 64

The Associated Press

FARMINGTON, Pa. — Vijay Singh walked off the Mystic Rock course with a three-shot lead after finishing the first round of the 84 Lumber Classic. Before he returned to the course, his lead was gone.

Ben Curtis, the 2003 British Open champion, started his second round with a 5-under par 31 on front nine and 36 on back nine to 10-under for the tournament — two shots ahead of Singh, who started his round later on Friday.

The way Singh is playing these days, that's about the only way for the rest of the PGA Tour to get a jump on him.

Curtis was three back following an opening round 5-under 67, then went birdie-birdie to start the second round at the Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, a mountaintop resort with so many amenities that some players joked they almost didn't want to leave their luxurious rooms.

Curtis has missed the cut in his past five tournaments since finishing 30th in the U.S. Open and hasn't placed higher than eighth in 17 events this year.

His front-side 31 included five birdies and matched Singh's opening round Thursday when the world's No. 1-ranked player got off to a fast start in pursuit of a fifth championship in the past six tournaments he has entered.

Kent Jones was also making a move, following an opening-round 69 with a 4-under 32 on the front nine to close to within one shot of Singh.

About one-fifth of the field finished a fog-delayed first round Friday morning before moving on to the second round, which was being played under sunny skies on an unusually warm late September day in southwestern Pennsylvania. A daytime high of 85 degrees was forecast.

During the first round, it was a case of different tournament, different course, same old song — or, make that, the same old Singh.

Singh said he was nearly perfect routing the 8-under 64 Thursday that left him three ahead of the field. It was difficult to argue. Singh had an eagle and six bird-

ies in a bogey-free round that was his 53rd of the year in the 60s. It also was his fourth round of 65 or lower in five tournaments, beginning with his victory last month in the PGA Championship.

Montgomerie misses cut in European Tour event

WOBBURN, England — Five days after making the putt that won the Ryder Cup, Colin Montgomerie missed the cut in a European PGA tour event Friday.

Montgomerie shot a second-round 5-over 77 in The Heritage and finished three strokes outside the cut line.

Graeme McDowell, who shot 4-under 68, and Phillip Price, who carded 67, shared the lead at 9-under after 36 holes.

Swedes Patrik Sjöland and Henrik Stenson were one stroke out of the lead after rounds of 68 and 67, respectively.

Montgomerie never recovered from a double-bogey 7 on his first hole, the 10th. He also bogeyed the 14th and 16th. After a birdie on No. 18, he double-bogeyed the 136-yard second hole when his tee shot flew over the green. Two bogeys and two birdies followed. "I came here to try and get into the top five to qualify for next week's Amex Championship in Ireland," Montgomerie said. "I didn't do it. Now I have a week off. It's probably a blessing in disguise."

Kim's 64 leads LPGA's Longs Drugs Challenge

AUBURN, Calif. — Christina Kim shot a 7-under 64 on Thursday and held a one-stroke lead over Rachel Teske after the first round of the LPGA Longs Drugs Challenge.

Kim didn't have a bogey on an almost windswept day at The Ridge Golf Club, a 6,235-yard layout that is a new venue for the nine-year-old tournament.

Kim was two strokes ahead of Rachel Teske, a two-time winner of this tournament, Beth Bauer, Miriam Nagl and Michelle Estill.

Stalled talks prolong NHL lockout

By IKA PODELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's been a week without progress in the NHL lockout. So far, there have been no overtures from the league or the players to resume talks to save a season that is already starting to slip away.

Not since the players' association made a proposal on Sept. 9 have the sides been in contact, much less sat down at a negotiating table. The final six days of the old collective bargaining agreement passed with no movement, and commissioner Gary Bettman imposed the lockout when the deal expired Sept. 15.

Training camps were supposed to open the next day — but didn't.

And ever since, NHL teams have been calling off preseason games and the opening few games of the 2004-05 season, scheduled to start Oct. 13.

It's the third time an NHL season has been interrupted by a labor dispute; this might end up

being a longer lockout than the one that lasted 103 days and cut the 1994-95 season to 48 games.

"I would hope that at some point they would view it as in their court to reach out and call us and get something going again," said Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer.

Clubs have been given permission to release previously booked dates for games on a 30-day rolling basis. So every day that passes will knock another possible playing date off the calendar.

The only talking that's taken place recently involved media interviews.

Both Daly and NHLPA senior director Ted Saskin appeared on U.S. and Canadian telecasts of the final game of the World Cup last week in Toronto. They shared the same cramped broadcast booths and stated their cases, but left without direct discussion.

"As I see it, the last proposal was made by us, so I'm not quite clear why the ball is in our court," Saskin said.

Bettman took part in a town-meeting telecast on Canadian television Tuesday. NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow presented the union's position in a similar format Wednesday. But neither side seems ready to make an offer. Already, more than 100 employees from the NHL's central staff of about 225 have lost their jobs.

"I feel for the people who work in the buildings, and the effect it has on the economy in a lot of places," Hall of Fame coach Scotty Bowman told The Canadian Press. "It's going to have quite a bit of a knockdown effect on a lot of people's lives, and that's the most unfortunate aspect."

The NHLPA turned away six proposals by the league during the summer, rejecting them on the basis that each contained a salary-cap structure — a notion the league disputed. That was followed by the union's luxury-tax offer, which the league also rejected.

"There's no real consensus on how to find the common ground," Saskin said.

Jeff Gordon counting every point in chase for fifth championship

By DYCK BRINSTER
The Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — With four drivers separated by 10 points in the Nextel Cup standings, Jeff Gordon knows the best way to win the championship is to be obsessed with gaining even the slightest advantages.

He wants to qualify well, get a favorable pit stall and lead as many laps as possible. Those factors are always a key to success, but they seem even more important under the new system that reset the top 10 cars only 45 points after the first 10 races of the season.

Attention to detail is nothing new for the four-time NASCAR champion. So, he says Sunday's race at Dover International Speedway actually begins with qualifying Friday, when he'll try to extend his series lead in poles with a seventh.

"The obvious advantage is less traffic to deal with and track position," Gordon said. "Because the pit lane is so narrow and small, at Dover, it seems we fight harder for track position."

Gordon has made great use of that key to maintaining it is getting in and out of the pits quickly. The outcome of qualifying determines the selection order of pit stops.

"That's a big advantage," Gordon, a four-time Dover winner, said. "You can choose one that has the best open either in front of it or behind it."

The MBNA America 400 will



Gordon

"Every weekend, if I have the opportunity to lead a lap, then I lead a lap," he said. "If I can lead the most laps, I try to lead the most laps. If I can win the race, I try to win the race."

"I don't know how you can approach it any differently."

Kurt Busch, the co-leader of the championship, would like to lead the last lap — something he's never done at The Monster Mile. That's a surprise, because no driver is better at Bristol Motor Speedway, the only other high-banked concrete oval on the NASCAR circuit. Busch has three victories in his last four starts on the half-mile at Bristol, but is winless in eight races at Dover.

"Our success at Bristol hasn't translated," said Busch, who won a truck race here four years ago. That came two days before his debut in NASCAR's first race.

"We qualified well at 10th place, and went on to finish 18th, so it was a solid way to kick off our Cup series efforts," Busch said.

With five subsequent top-10 fin-

ishes, Busch has been competitive here. But he has not come close to winning.

If he does, Busch will have a second straight victory in just the second race of NASCAR's inaugural top-10 showdown.

Busch won last Sunday in New Hampshire, and came here tied with Dale Earnhardt Jr. for the points lead with nine races remaining.

If Busch wants a lesson on how to win here, Roush Racing teammate Mark Martin provides the best example. No one on the circuit has won more races at Dover.

But the teammate concept isn't very strong this fall, because Martin also is part of the top-10. He's seventh in the standings as he continues the quest for his first championship in his 18th season.

Martin won here in June, getting his fourth Dover victory. He also has five second-place finishes on the track.

"Dover is a great race track, and it may even be my favorite," Martin said. "There are six tracks of the nine left that we really feel like we should run strong at and Dover is the first of those."

Gordon is third in the standings, a point in front of reigning series champion Matt Kenseth and nine behind Busch and Earnhardt, who's looking to win for the second time at Dover. Earnhardt knows he was lucky to finish third in June.

"I weren't very good," he said. "But somehow we avoided all the wrecks."



AP

Three victories during his streak of 13 straight top-five finishes have put Brazilian Tony Kanaan on the verge of his first IRL series title.

Consistent Kanaan closing in on title

By STEVE HERMAN
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — With two races left, Mr. Consistency Tony Kanaan is in an almost unbeatable position.

Three victories during an incredible streak of 13 straight top-five finishes have put the 29-year-old Brazilian on the verge of his first Indy Racing League series championship.

"I don't want to talk about the championship yet, but I have confidence I can do really well," he said. "I don't want to break the streak, and if I finish in top five one more time, the championship is ours."

Unlike last year, when Scott Dixon emerged from a pack of five drivers who still had a chance for the championship going into the final race, Kanaan can hardly see his closest challengers in his rearview mirrors.

The nearest is his Andretti Green teammate Dan Wheldon, 75 points behind. That means Kanaan can clinch the title by finishing fourth or better in the Toyota Indy 400 on Oct. 3 at California Speedway. Even if Wheldon wins that race and the season finale at Texas, Kanaan would get the championship by finishing at least ninth and 25th.

Realistically, Wheldon has almost no chance. But he won't concede.

"I think I can catch Tony, but it will be very difficult," Wheldon said. "I try to never think about the negative side of things. We've had a good year and have run off five straight top-four finishes, so I do think there's a chance."

Kanaan's worst race came in the season opener at Homestead, Fla., in which he finished eighth.

He won the next race at Phoenix in March and has not finished below fifth since then. His streak of five — in which he has led in all but two races — also includes victories at Texas and Nashville, Tenn., and seconds at Japan, Indianapolis, Michigan and Nazareth, Pa. He leads the series in laps completed, laps led, races led and top-10 and top-five finishes.

With \$1,743,590 this year, Kanaan is second in winnings to Buddy Rice, whose \$2.6 million total included a record \$1.8 mil-

lion for winning the Indianapolis 500.

"Looking back to last year, we kind of were looking to see what we could have done better. The only thing was to win more races. That's what we've tried to do," said Kanaan, who had only one career IRL win before this season.

One reason for the Andretti Green success — Kanaan, Wheldon and teammates Dario Franchitti and Bryan Herta are all among the top eight in the season points — is the development of the new Honda engine, he said. Another is the close work among the four drivers and car owner Michael Andretti.

"We proved to everybody it's a big advantage if you know how to work with your teammates," Kanaan said. "We have a great relationship, it's helping us all."

Even in the heat of the title chase, he said, the drivers and crews are sharing information with one another.

"There's nothing I'm going to hide from my teammates, just because we're fighting for the championship," Kanaan said. "It's a matter of my principles first, and the team's as well. I want to win in a fair situation. I don't want anybody to give it to me. I want to get it because I'm capable to get it."

Wheldon was the IRL rookie of the year in 2003, when he was 11th in the driver standings.

His first IRL victory was at Japan in April, and he added victories at Richmond, Va., and at Nazareth. Franchitti, who drove in only three races last year because of back injuries from a motorcycle accident, won his first two IRL races — his 11th and 12th overall, including 10 in CART — at Milwaukee and Fountain, Colo., and is fifth in the standings.

Herta, hired by Andretti while Franchitti was injured and then kept on because I see this situation still looking for his first win this year.

Even though fourth place at California guarantees Kanaan's championship, he'll be going for a victory.

"But obviously," he added, "I'm not that stupid to throw it away just because I see this situation of winning a race. If I feel I have the car to do it, I will."

Company withholds Armstrong bonus

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The company that owns Lance Armstrong's \$5 million for winning a record sixth straight Tour de France is withholding payment of the bonus, citing allegations in a French book that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

SCA Promotions points to doping allegations contained in "L.A. Confidential, the Secrets of Lance Armstrong," published in June by La Martiniere. Armstrong has denounced the book's claims as "absolutely untrue" and launched defamation lawsuits against the publisher and authors.

Chris Compton, a lawyer for SCA, said the company wants to see Armstrong's medical records before releasing the money.

"We've requested [drug] test results to disprove the allegations — clean test results that should be easily attainable," Compton said Sunday. "We don't want anything on releasing them to the media or doing anything other than verifying that they exist."

Armstrong's U.S. Postal Cycling Team filed suit this month in state court in Dallas, claiming the SCA didn't have the right to question Armstrong's Tour victory, which were upheld by cycling authorities.

The team, jointly owned and managed by Tailwind Sports and

Sports briefs

After Armstrong's third Tour victory in 2001, Tailwind paid SCA a \$420,000 premium to insure the risk for his bonuses in future years would be met by SCA. SCA paid Armstrong \$15 million in 2002 and \$3 million in 2003.

Nuggets give Rodman a look in comeback attempt

DENVER — Dennis Rodman is thinking about a comeback, and the Denver Nuggets are giving him a shot.

The 43-year-old former NBA rebounding champion briefly participated in a pickup game at the Nuggets facility earlier this week but had to cut short the workout because of an ingrown toenail.

General Manager Kiki Vandeweghe told Rodman he was welcome to return once the injury heals. Rodman's agent, Darren Prince, told The Denver Post that Rodman hopes to work out again with the Nuggets next week.

Rodman hasn't played in the NBA since the 1999-00 season. Vandeweghe called Rodman's workout "informal."

Serena Williams, Sharapova advance in China Open

BEIJING — Top-seeded Serena Williams and Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova reached the China Open semifinals when their opponents had to stop playing because of ankle injuries.

Also advancing Friday with a quarterfinal victory was U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsov. Vera Zvonareva or Anabel Medina Garrigues will complete the semifinal Friday.

Hopkins-De La Hoya fight draws million buys

NEW YORK — The middleweight title fight between Bernard Hopkins and Oscar De La Hoya was bought by 1 million households, HBO said Thursday.

The buys were the second most of non-heavyweight fights, and income from pay-per-view totaled \$55 million, the cable network said.

The number of buys, however, didn't reach the expectations of promoter Bob Arum, who hoped to beat the 1.4 million buys of De La Hoya's 1999 fight against Felix Trinidad.

Arum stopped De La Hoya in the ninth round with a body shot to retain his undisputed middleweight titles.

Arrington sidelined 2-4 weeks

BY JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — Washington Redskins linemen LaVar Arrington is expected to miss two to four weeks after a sudden flare-up forced him to have surgery on his right knee.

Arrington missed practice Thursday to repair torn cartilage in the knee that has been bothering the three-time Pro Bowl linebacker since the opening-week victory over Tampa Bay.

Arrington will not be on crutches for a least a week.

"It's just one of those things that happens and you've got to take care of," coach Joe Gibbs said. "He's somebody that we think is going to play for a long

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis for upcoming game.

Browns CB Daylon McCutcheon (broken finger) game-time decision; CB Anthony Henry (concussion) game-time decision; TE Kellen Winslow (broken leg) out; DT Ryan Tucker (sprained knee) out; DT Gerald Ware (strained chest muscle) out.

Chargers QB Drew Brees (mild concussion) likely to play.

Cats RB Edgerrin James (strained hamstring) questionable.

Patriots RB Warrick Dunn (sprained knee) expects to play.

Titans WR Tyrone Callico (knee) questionable.

time, so we want to take good care of him."

Meanwhile, quarterback Mark Brunell was a spectator again during practice because of a strained hamstring. Gibbs stopped short of declaring Patrick Ramsey the starter for Monday night's game against Dallas, but the coach said that would be his expectation "from what we know today."

Arrington said he hurt his knee when he "took a bad step" during the game against the Bucs. He played Sunday in a loss to the Giants and made seven tackles.

Fast start, sloppy finish for Miami

Offensively challenged Canes build early 21-0 lead, but struggle at Houston

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Tyrone Moss rushed for 148 yards and two touchdowns, Tavares Gooden recovered a blocked punt in the end zone for a score in the opening minute, and Baraka Atkins scored on a 52-yard fumble return in fourth-ranked Miami's listless 38-13 victory over Houston on Thursday night.

"There are some things we have to correct," Moss said. "I know nobody's going to have their best game every week."

Miami (3-0) clearly didn't have its best game against Houston.

The Cougars (1-3) were playing their fourth game in 19 days and haven't beaten a ranked opponent in eight years.

Miami quarterback Brock Berlin, who missed several open receivers and fumbled late in the first half to set up Houston's only touchdown, completed 13 of 23 passes for 99 yards and was sacked seven times, often because of his own poor decisions in the pocket.

"We were a little shaky at times," Berlin said. "We didn't have a whole lot of success with the passing game."

Miami's defense also allowed its first touchdown of the season: quarterback Kevin Kolb's 6-yard sprint into the end zone in the final moments of the first half. The Cougars' sideline erupted in celebration, with a few players tossing their helmets into the air.

The Hurricanes gave nine touchdowns and an overtime without giving up an offensive touchdown.

Thought to be one of the favorites for a national title, Miami revealed plenty of flaws against a team that was a four-touchdown underdog and was without its leading rusher. The Hurricanes gave up 132 rushing yards and some big plays against Houston's inexperienced offensive line.

"We wanted to show the country that we were a team that was



AP

Miami defensive end Baraka Atkins returns a fumble 52 yards for a score Thursday night.

The Canes' defense also gave up its first touchdown of the season.

not going to let another team come in here and walk all over us," said Houston defensive end Joe Clay, who had three sacks.

Houston tailback Anthony Evans, who rushed for 282 yards against Army last week, missed the game after straining his right calf during the pregame warmup.

Predictably, Houston got off to a rough start without him. The Cougars barely got their first play off on time, dropped a pass on the third play, committed a false-start penalty on the next and were nearly intercepted on third down.

Gooden scored on an Anthony Reddick's blocked punt on fourth down, 55 seconds into the game.

Frank Gore and Moss added a couple of short scoring runs to give Miami a 21-0 lead early in the second quarter. Gore, coming off his second major knee surgery in two years, had 8 yards on six carries and did not play after the first quarter.

The Hurricanes didn't score again on offense until Moss' 5-yard run with 3:46 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Miami left tackle Eric Winston said the Hurricanes simply got bored midway through the game.

"Lackluster is the word," Winston said. "We got up early a couple of touchdowns and we just packed it in a little bit. We've got to learn to let people away."

Houston, which lost 63-13 at No. 2 Oklahoma two weeks ago, seemed to gain confidence as the game progressed.

"It took us about a quarter to calm down," Kolb said. "I was a little jittery in the beginning but I calmed down and we started to click."

Houston failed to score on many chances deep in Miami territory. The Cougars drove inside Miami's 20-yard line five times, and came away with Kolb's touchdown run and two field goals.

Ryan Gilbert, a transfer from LSU, proved to be an adequate replacement for Evans. He rushed for a career-high 84 yards on 26 carries.

No. 4 Miami 38, Houston 13

Miami 14 10 7 13
Houston 0 0 0 0

First Quarter

Mia.—Golden Tate fumbled fumble in end zone (Peattie kick), 14:25.

Mia.—Gore 4 (run) (Peattie kick), 5:51.

Second Quarter

Mia.—T-Moss 5 (run) (Peattie kick), 14:57.

Hou.—FG Bell 26, 11:16.

Hou.—Kolb 6 (run) (Bell kick), 1:12.

Third Quarter

Mia.—Atkins 52 (fumble return) (Peattie kick), 9:03.

FG Bell 27, 6:31.

Fourth Quarter

Mia.—T-Moss 5 (run) (Peattie kick), 3:46.

A.—36-58.

First downs

Rushes—yards

Passing

Comp.—Int

Return yards

Fumbles—Lost

Penalties—Yards

Time of Possession

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Miami: T-Moss 39-148, Portt 21-116, Hill 1-7, Moore 1-4, Everett 1-3. Houston: Johnson 2-3, Hill 2-3, Team 1—minus 3.

Passing—Miami: Berlin 13-23-95, Marshall 8-36, Schirmer 1-5, Kolb 8-4, Marshall 1-2.

Passing—Houston: Berlin 13-23-95, Houston, Kolb 11-26-153.

Receiving—Miami: Marshall 3-26, Jolia 2-14, Jenkins 2-6, Loggott 1-16, Olsen 1-12, S-Moss 1-11, Hill 1-7, Moore 1-4, Everett 1-3.

Houston: Marshall 4-70, McDaniel 2-17, Bassler 1-21, Loggott 1-14, Schirmer 1-12, Gilbert 1-10, Avery 1-9.

Cardinals institute 'Vick rules'

BY BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona Cardinals coach Dennis Green throws out the conventional defensive playbook when he's preparing a team to face Michael Vick.

Instead, he said, he institutes "Michael Vick rules."

"What are they?" "I can't tell you that," Green said Thursday, "but I think they know we will have a special way of trying to deal with Michael Vick."

Before Vick, the last player to require those special rules, Green said, was Barry Sanders.

"If you don't have those [rules], you won't stop them," Green said.

Whatever the strategy, the Cardinals (0-2) will go into Sunday's game at Atlanta (2-0) with a defense that's been good at getting turnovers, but not so good at stopping offenses, especially on the ground.

Arizona has six takeaways — three fumbles and three interceptions — in losses at St. Louis and to New England. But the Cardinals have given up 825 yards in two games, 348 on the ground.

"We're showing flashes of what we can do as far as getting turnovers," defensive end Bertrand Berry said. "But I think, as a whole, we still have to shore up our run defense. That's the quickest way to get beat in the NFL, to allow a team to run up and down on you and control the clock."

The biggest problem, Berry said, has been missed tackles. "We're allowing backs to get too many yards after contact, after that first hit," he said.

Missed tackles are the norm against the multitalented Vick, who rushed for 109 yards and completed 14 of 19 passes for 179 yards and a touchdown in last week's victory over St. Louis.

"He does it all, man," Arizona

safety Adrian Wilson said. "He can pass. He can run. He can probably pass it to himself. You never know with that guy."

Arizona's Emmitt Smith said Vick "might be the fastest quarterback ever to play the game."

"If he gets out in front of you, it's over," Smith said. "I don't know if we've got anybody on the squad who can catch him."

Berry said the defense will have to play with a controlled aggression.

"It's just so mobile back there you can't afford to make a mistake or he can turn a possible sack into a 50-yard touchdown run," Berry said. "We're going to have to play very smart, and try to be aggressive at the same time."

The Cardinals aren't sure who will be in the backfield with Vick. Running back Warrick Dunn proved to be a key knock-out at St. Louis and is questionable for Sunday's game. If Dunn can't play, T.J. Duckett will start.

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Berkman's blast saves Astros and Dodgers

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — With one swing of the bat, Lance Berkman revived the Houston Astros' playoff hopes — and gave the Los Angeles Dodgers a much-needed reprieve.

Berkman hit a three-run homer off Dustin Hermanson, highlighting a five-run ninth inning that sent Houston to a 7-3 victory over San Francisco on Thursday night. A loss would have put the Astros four games behind the Giants in the NL wild-card race. Instead, they remained 2½ games behind the Chicago Cubs, who beat Pittsburgh 6-3 and took a half-game lead over San Francisco.

"This has been crazy," Berkman said. "It seems like every time we're on the brink of destruction or elimination, something crazy happens."

The Giants dropped 1½ games behind the NL West-leading Dodgers.

Los Angeles, which starts a three-game series in San Francisco on Friday night, beat San Diego 9-6.

The Astros trailed 3-2 when

Carlos Beltran and Jeff Bagwell

Roundup

opened the ninth with singles. Bagwell's dribbler took an inexplicable 90-degree turn to stay fair down the third-base line. Berkman followed with his 29th homer, which hung high in the air before barely reaching the first row of seats in the elevated arcade on the right-field wall.

The Giants quickly came unglued after that. Hermanson (6-7) and manager Felipe Alou were ejected when the reliever hit Jeff Kent with the next pitch.

"I'm not going to say anything about it," Hermanson said. "I just didn't do my job tonight. I was going for a ground ball with Berkman. The ball was down and in, and he golfed it out."

The Astros added two more in the ninth on Jason Lane's RBI single and Raul Chavez's sacrifice bunt.

Dan Miceli (6-6) got one out in the eighth to get the victory.

Both clubs were warned after benches cleared in the third, when rookie Brandon Backe near-

ly hit Barry Bonds with a low pitch.

"We've got no beef with Barry Bonds," Houston manager Phil Garner said. "We've got absolutely no reason to hit anybody on that ballclub."

Dodgers 9, Padres 6: Cesar Lirio homered and Adrian Beltré had three hits for visiting Los Angeles. The Dodgers knocked out Brian Lawrence (15-13) after four innings and went up 7-0 in the fifth.

Rookie Yency Brazoban (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings in relief before giving way to Eric Gagne, who pitched a perfect eighth before allowing two runs in the ninth. He held on for his 43rd save in 45 chances.

Cubs 6, Pirates 3: Greg Maddux reached 15 victories for a record 17th consecutive season as Chicago regained the wild-card lead.

Maddux (15-10) also hit a two-run single in a four-run sixth inning. LaTroy Hawkins pitched a perfect ninth for his 22nd save in 30 chances.

Nelson Figueroa (0-3) gave up four runs and five hits in two innings for Pittsburgh.

Cardinals 4, Brewers 2: Visiting St. Louis reached 100 victories for the first time since 1985 and the seventh time in franchise history. Yadier Molina hit his first major league home run in the eighth off Matt Wise (1-2) to break a 2-2 tie. Hector Luna followed with his third homer of the season.

Cal Eldred (4-2) won in relief and Jason Irahiguera pitched the ninth for his league-leading 45th save in 52 chances, completing a four-hitter.

Reds 3, Braves 2: Gabe White earned his first save in over four years as visiting Cincinnati prevented Atlanta from clinching its 13th consecutive division title. The Braves' magic number in the NL East was reduced to one when Philadelphia beat Florida.

With one out in the ninth and the Reds ahead 3-1, White came in on the bases loaded. Chipper Jones hit a sacrifice fly to make it 3-2 but Johnny Estrada popped to second. It was White's first save since September 1, 2000.

Cincinnati rookie Luke Hudson (4-2) allowed one run and two hits in five innings with a career-high eight strikeouts.

Jaret Wright (15-8) gave up four hits and two runs in six innings.

Rockies 7-2, Diamondbacks 1-4: Jeremy Burnitz drove in the winning run with a bloop single in the 10th to complete host Colorado's sweep. Todd Helton doubled to right to start the 10th against Randy Choate (2-4), who then walked Vinny Castilla intentionally. Burnitz followed with a single in front of left fielder Andy Green.

Adam Simpson (2-1) worked a scoreless ninth to earn the victory.

In the opener, Jeff Francis (3-2) gave up one run and seven hits and matched a career high by striking out eight.

Mets 4, Expos 2: Tom Glavine (10-13) won for just the third time since mid-June and Gerald Williams and Victor Diaz homered for visiting New York. Braden Looper pitched the ninth for his 27th save in 32 chances.

Brad Wilkerson went 3-for-4 with two homers for Montreal. Tomo Ohka (3-6) made his first start since breaking his forearm June 10. He allowed eight hits and four runs in five innings.

Time runs out in playoff bids for Phils, Fish

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Philadelphia Phillies figured out how to win in Florida — and just about ended the Marlins' hope for defending their World Series title. Jimmy Rollins homered in the 10th inning, helping Philadelphia complete a three-game sweep of Florida with a 9-8 victory Thursday night.

"We weren't going to come here and roll over," Rollins said of the Phillies, who entered the series winless in 14 games in Miami.

Rollins hit a pitch from Armando Benitez (2-2) over the right-field fence for his 12th homer.

"I was sitting on the bench thinking I want this game to be over," Rollins said. "I said, 'Maybe I have to do it myself.'"

The three-game sweep lifted the Phillies into a tie with Florida, which has lost four of five, for second place in the NL East. At 7-3, the best both teams can do is tie Atlanta atop the division. The Braves were beaten 3-2 by Cincinnati on Thursday night.

"Last year, they beat us. They were better than us," Phillies manager Larry Bowa said. "This year, they were better than us until this series."

The Marlins and Phillies are seven games behind Chicago in the wild-card race. The Cubs beat Pittsburgh 6-3 and moved into the wild-card lead when San Francisco lost to Houston 7-3.

"We have to try to win as many games as we can," Bowa said.

The Marlins, who played their last home game of the season, must try to make up the large wild-card deficit with 10 road games.

"Our pride is in our manager Jack McKeon said. 'We are the defending world champions.'"

Billy Wagner (4-0), who gave up the tying run in the ninth, earned the victory. Todd Jones got three outs for his second save in eight opportunities for Philadelphia.

In the ninth, Juan Encarnacion led off with a double and moved to third on Alex Gonzalez's sacrifice. Juan Pierre then hit a sharp grounder that third baseman David Bell mishandled. Bell's throw was late for first, allowing Encarnacion to score.

"These are the kinds of games we have with them (Florida)," Bowa said. "It's nice to win one."



Fan gets the better of Florida's Jeff Conine in a bid to grab a foul ball during Thursday night's game.

Gonzalez's throwing error in the eighth allowed the Phillies to go ahead 8-7.

Rollins hit a sharp grounder to second baseman Luis Castillo, who flipped to shortstop Gonzalez covering second and forced Placido Polanco. But in trying to avoid Polanco's hard slide, Gonzalez made an errant throw to first, allowing Rollins to reach and Mike Lieberthal to score from second.

"We just came up short," Pierre said. "They stung last and we couldn't get one last gust."

Chase Utley and Bell hit solo home runs in the seventh inning as the Phillies overcame a four-run deficit to take a 7-6 lead.

Utley's leadoff home run off Marlins reliever Guillermo Mota tied the game 6-6 and Bell homered with two outs.

Pinch-hitter Lenny Harris tied it with a leadoff homer in the Marlins' half. It was Harris' 193rd pinch hit, extending his major league record.

Jim Thome's three-run home run in the fifth — his 42nd — off Marlins starter Josh Beckett cut Florida's lead to 6-5.

Washington likely pick as new home for Expos

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major league baseball will try to complete negotiations within a week to move the Montreal Expos to Washington next year.

Baseball's executive council met for three hours Thursday in Milwaukee at the offices of baseball commissioner Bud Selig and heard a presentation from the relocation committee. While no formal recommendation was made, the preference of the committee for the downtown Washington group was evident, a high-ranking baseball official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Selig told the council he would move forward to conclude a deal as quickly as possible, the baseball official said, and left a clear impression with the council members that it would be with the group from the nation's capital, which has been competing with a rival offer from Northern Virginia.

Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos, a member of the relocation council, reiterated during the meeting that he opposes having a team relocate to downtown Washington, about 40 miles from Baltimore's Camden Yards ballpark, saying it would take away fans and revenue from his franchise.

Angelos was supported during the meeting by New York Mets owner Fred Wilpon and San Francisco Giants owner Peter Magowan, the official said.

Baseball officials will press ahead with talks with the Washington group and Angelos, the official said. The move would be the first in the major leagues since the expansion Washington Sena-

tors became the Texas Rangers after the 1971 season.

Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, said the meeting was amicable.

"Peter Angelos has made his views known with regard to the effect that he believes the team in the D.C. area will have on the Baltimore Orioles and he articulated those views," DuPuy said.

"Mr. Angelos' concerns, which are shared by the commissioner and have been all along, have always been a serious issue."

Angelos was not available for comment. DuPuy hopes to have a decision by the end of the regular season on Oct. 3.

"I think we're all running out of time," he said.

The Expos were bought by the new 29 teams before the 2002 season. After the relocation decision, baseball plans to start the talks to sell the club, which started play in 1969.

Northern Virginia proposed building a stadium in Loudoun County near Dulles International Airport, about 60 miles from Camden Yards.

Mark Tuohy, chairman of the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission, said legislation must be introduced by Oct. 1 for the proposed \$130-million renovation of RFK Stadium in order for funding to become law on Dec. 31, when the terms expire for several City Council members who support the Washington baseball plan. The legislation would include financing for a ballpark costing slightly more than \$400 million, he said.

Under Washington's plan, the Expos would play in RFK Stadium for three seasons before moving to a new ballpark.

Thanks to Texas, change sweeps AL West

Oakland's lead cut to two games over Rangers, Angels

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Texas Rangers got the sweep they needed against Oakland's "Big Three" to keep alive their postseason hopes.

David Dellucci hit a two-out, two-run double past diving Jermaine Dye in the ninth inning to cap a three-run rally and give Texas a 5-4 victory over the Athletics on Thursday night.

The Rangers won their fifth straight and moved into a tie with Anaheim, two games behind Oakland in the AL West with 10 games to play.

Brian Jordan hustled around from first base and slid headfirst into home with the winning run, kicking off a celebration among the Rangers.

"We knew we had to" sweep, Jordan said. "It definitely does a lot for our confidence."

Texas picked up victories over Oakland aces Mark Mulder, Barry Zito and Thursday's starter, Tim Lincecum.

Dellucci hadn't played in the first 16 games of the series because of a 5-for-40 slump. He was 0-for-4 Thursday before his game-winning double off Oakland catcher Octavio Dotel (4-2).

"I went from frustration to elation," he said.

Before Dellucci's winner, Hank

AL Roundup

Blalock hit his 32nd solo homer with one out, Michael Young doubled for his fourth hit and Mark Teixeira was intentionally walked, his team-record fifth walk of the game. Jordan reached on a forceout.

"We never predict if we will win or lose. We always play to the end of the game," Young said. "That's a huge strength of this club."

Texas now hosts last-place Seattle for the three games while the A's and Angels face off in Anaheim.

"We're still in pretty good position. I'd rather be two games up than two games back," said Hudson, who held Texas to two runs over seven innings. "We lost a tough one, it's going to happen. ... We've played the whole year for 10 games."

Mark Kotsay and Adam Melhuse homered off Texas starter Chan Ho Park and Bobby Crosby gave the A's a 4-2 lead in the ninth while the A's shot off Jeff Nelson (1-2).

Yankees 7, Devil Rays 3: Derek Jeter hit a leadoff home run, Jon Lieber pitched into the eighth inning and the host Yankees clinched their 10th consecutive playoff berth.

John Flaherty also homered as the Yankees moved 4½ games ahead of Boston in the AL East.

Lieber (13-8) allowed three runs and 11 hits in 7½ innings. Todd Ritchie (0-2) took the loss.

Orioles 9, Red Sox 7: David Ortiz flew out to the warning track with runners on first and second for the final out. With the homestranded Red Sox trailing 9-5 in the ninth, Manny Ramirez hit a two-run single with the bases loaded before Ortiz flew out.

Miguel Tejada hit a three-run homer and Todd Williams (2-0) pitched a perfect seventh.

White Sox 7, Royals 6: Joe Crede hit a game-winning three-run shot in the ninth off Jeremy Affeldt (3-4).

Crede also homered in the eighth and Aaron Rowand and Ross Gload also went deep for the host White Sox.

Damasso Marte (6-5) pitched a scoreless ninth.

Indians 9, Twins 7: Cliff Lee won for the second time since July 16 in a win and rookie catcher Sizemore hit a two-run homer.

Lee (12-8) made it through 5½ innings, allowing five runs and eight hits.

Josh Bard homered and had three RBIs and Coco Crisp drove in two runs for host Cleveland.



Brian Jordan slides across the plate with the winning run in the bottom of the ninth Thursday as Texas beat Oakland 5-4 in Arlington, Texas.

Bat: Feats at plate might not be enough for Mariners' Martinez

BAT, FROM BACK PAGE

"They're not going to hold it against you. It's part of the game and should be included as such."

Ask anybody in Seattle whether Martinez belongs in the Hall of Fame, and the answer is as certain as winter rainfall. Outside the Pacific Northwest, however, it's less clear-cut.

"If you look purely at numbers, he's borderline," Anaheim manager Mike Scioscia said.

Martinez is a career .311 hitter with 308 homers, 2,240 hits, 1,258 RBIs and an on-base percentage of .419. With 10 games remaining this season, he was hitting .268 on the year with 11 home runs, 121 hits, 60 RBIs and a .351 on-base percentage.

Martinez's 1,000 RBIs as a DH are the highest total by anyone who played at least 1,000 games at that position. The same goes for his 308 homers as a DH and his 242 homers as a DH. He's the seventh player with at least 300 homers, 500 doubles (514), 1,000 walks (1,282), a career batting average of at least .300 and a career on-base percentage of at least .400.

The others are Stan Musial, Rogers Hornsby, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Ted Williams and Barry Bonds. Hornsby and Martinez are the only right-handed hitters on that list.

"He was one of the most feared right-handed hitters for a long time in this league," Molitor said. "The amount of respect he has

Edgar Martinez at a glance

Born: Jan. 2, 1963 in New York City.
Bats: Right
Throws: Right
All-Star Games: 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2003.
Silver Slugger: 1997, 2001, 2003.
AL Batting Titles: 1992 (.343), 1995 (.356).
Career: 311 hitter; 308 home runs; 2,240 hits; 1,258 RBIs; 1,282 walks; 1,258 RBIs; .419 on-base percentage; 1,000 RBIs; 242 homers as a DH. ... Seventh DH ever to bat with at least 300 homers; 500 doubles; 1,000 walks; a career batting average of at least .300 and a career on-base percentage of at least .400.
Batted 300 or better 10 times in 14 full major league seasons. ... Set AL record for most hits in a five-game series (12) vs. NYV in 1995. ... First player in history with seven 30-homer seasons (1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2003).
Career average of at least .300 vs. 12 of 13 AL teams (.294 vs. Boston). ... Seattle's career leader in batting average, hits, doubles, walks and games played.
Spent entire career with Mariners after signing as a free agent Oct. 19, 1982.

from peers speaks to the value of the offensive player he was."

Martinez is well short of the magical numbers that usually guarantee a spot in Cooperstown: 3,000 hits and 500 home runs.

For every rule there's an exception: Kirby Puckett was enshrined in 2001 with a 318 career average, 2,304 hits and 207 homers.

Puckett, though, was famous for his defense, something that works against Martinez, and Puckett's career was cut short because glaucoma blinded his right eye.

It's worth noting that Martinez played 563 games at third base and 28 at first before settling in as

a full-time DH in 1992, when he won his first batting title with a .343 average.

Martinez hit .356 in 1995 to win his second batting crown. That year, he had the highest average by a right-handed AL batting champion since Joe DiMaggio hit .381 in 1939.

Martinez also had the biggest hit in franchise history.

His 11th-inning double in the fifth game of the 1995 AL division series touched off a frenzy at the Kingdom when Joey Cora and Ken Griffey Jr. scored, lifting the Mariners to a thrilling 6-5 victory over the New York Yankees.

"A lot of people remember that double when they talk about my career," Martinez said. "I'd say, 'Yeah,' that would define my career."

In "Out of Left Field," a book by Seattle Post-Intelligencer columnist Art Thiel, former Mariners writer Lou Piniella called it "the hit, the run, the game, the series and the season that saved baseball in Seattle."

At the time, the state Legislature was considering funding for what eventually became Safeco Field and a local ownership group was fighting to keep the team in Seattle. The excitement of the franchise's first postseason series victory built invaluable support.

How fitting that Martinez was the player who delivered the clutch hit.

In my mind, he's a Hall of Famer. I think he's the Tony Perez of our generation," Scioscia

said. "If you talk about a guy who consistently hit the ball hard and an at-bat by at-bat basis, Edgar is in an elite group."

"You're talking about some all-time greats you would compare him to. He's definitely the one guy you didn't want to see come up with the game on the line," Scioscia said.

Martinez said he'll just sit back and let the Hall voters think it out.

"There are a lot of different opinions about it," he said.

"What I think is that the DH makes a huge contribution to the team, just like any position player who plays every day."

Martinez's meticulous preparation is the stuff of legend. He selects bats using a digital scale at his locker and begins his hitting routine under the seats three or four batters before he's due on deck.

Raised by his grandparents in Puerto Rico, Martinez credits his grandfather for his perfectionist approach. One week after each season ended, Martinez was in the weight room.

"Edgar defined the position of the DH," said Anaheim's Troy Glaus. "He was the first guy to take it on as a role, not just as a guy who's banged up and had to DH for a week. He's done it at a very high level, and that's not an easy thing to do."

Without question, Martinez's history of injuries contributed to his job as DH. He's had a play through some kind of affliction

nearly every year since 1990, his first full season in the majors.

In recent years, Martinez battled a notorious hamstring injury and performed eye exercises to maintain sharpness in his vision.

Last year, he played the final month with a broken toe in his right foot.

As of midweek, he hadn't played since fouling a pitch off his left foot Sept. 18. Had he ever played on a National League team, Martinez believes he could have handled first or third every day.

"And the way he hits, believe me, Edgar would have been playing out on the field somewhere," Seattle manager Bob Melvin said.

Martinez ranks among the rarest of modern athletes by spending his entire career with the same team. He signed in December 1982 and made his major league debut on Sept. 12, 1987 against the Chicago White Sox.

"It is important. Not many players do that any more," Martinez said. "I always felt great here. I love to play here. I've always enjoyed it immensely to play here. I always wanted to stay."

Armstrong noted fans think of Cal Ripken when they think of the Orioles. With the Padres, it's Tony Gwynn. The Red Sox had Ted Williams and Carl Yastrzemski and the Yankees had Mickey Mantle and Joe DiMaggio.

"As the years go by, I believe when people think of the Mariners they'll think of Edgar Martinez," Armstrong said.

SPORTS



Baseball hopes to conclude negotiations next week to bring Expos to Washington D.C., Page 29

Will Hall voters go to bat for Martinez?

Seattle Mariners designated hitter Edgar Martinez will retire at the end of this season, and his retirement is sure to re-ignite the debate as to whether a career DH belongs in Cooperstown. He has a better average (.315), more home runs (242) and more RBIs (1,258) than anybody to play at least 1,000 games as a DH. On the other hand, he's short of two milestones that usually guarantee a spot in Cooperstown: 3,000 hits and 500 home runs.

AP

Beloved Mariners DH will put criteria to test

BY TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE
Edgar Martinez has been swinging his bat in Seattle so long, he seems as much a city fixture as the Space Needle and Pioneer Square.

Unlike the landmarks, Martinez won't be on display much longer.

Retirement is looming for the 41-year-old Mariners star, regarded as one of the best right-handed hitters of his generation.

"I know when I get to that final homestand, I'm going to feel very emotional about it," Martinez said. "I know I'm going to miss the competition and everything that goes with baseball."

Martinez will retire as a seven-time All-Star and two-time American League batting champion. He'll be remembered as one of the nicest guys in baseball, beloved by Seattle fans and an exceptional clubhouse presence.

"Edgar is very special person," Mariners President Chuck Armstrong said. "He's a very loyal per-

son, a great teammate."

His retirement also is likely to test the limits on one of baseball's most fiery debates. Martinez will be the most accomplished career designated hitter to contend for a plaque at Cooperstown.

"I think the writers have spoken in my case and they will again in the future," said Seattle hitting coach Paul Molitor, inducted into the Hall of Fame this summer after playing the final eight seasons of his career as a DH.

"The DH makes a daily contribution to the team, just like any position player who plays every day."

Edgar Martinez
Mariners designated hitter



Rangers rally in ninth inning to complete sweep of Athletics, pull to within two games in AL West

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College football: Coming off losses, Clemson, Iowa enter pivotal matchups as underdogs

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No. 4 Hurricanes listless on offense but remain unbeaten with 38-13 victory over Cougars

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Berkman homer helps Astros regain footing in wild-card race Page 29